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W. H. Smith  
1886

Wm. F. Reynolds  
U.S.A.







# REYNOLDS MEMORIAL.

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## ADDRESSES

DELIVERED BEFORE

## THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA

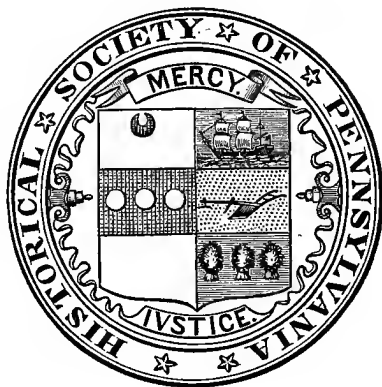
UPON THE OCCASION OF THE

## PRESENTATION OF A PORTRAIT

OF

MAJ.-GEN. JOHN F. <sup>Alston</sup> REYNOLDS,

MARCH 8, 1880.



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1880.

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## PREFATORY NOTE.

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SHORTLY after its date the following letter was received by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania:

LANCASTER, PA., December 8, 1879.

JOHN WM. WALLACE, Esq.,

*President of Historical Society of Pennsylvania.*

DEAR SIR,—Rear-Admiral William Reynolds, U.S.N., of this city, died November 5, 1879. By his will he bequeathed to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania the portrait by Balling of John Fulton Reynolds, late a citizen of Pennsylvania, and colonel of the U.S.A. and major-general of volunteers. It will be sent to you from Washington to-morrow by Adams' Express, free of expense.

Very respectfully,

REBECCA REYNOLDS,

CHARLES A. HEINITSH,

*Executors.*

At a meeting of the Council of the Historical Society, held December 29, 1879, it was unanimously

*Resolved*, That the Council entertain a profound affection and respect for the name and memory of John Fulton Reynolds, late a citizen of Pennsylvania, colonel in the army of the United States, and major-general of volunteers, whose bravery and military skill, as exhibited on the field of Gettysburg, assisted in the highest degree to the preservation of this city from capture by the enemy in July, 1863, and to the overthrow of the rebellion against the Constitution, laws, and liberty of the United States of America.

*Resolved*, That the portrait of Major-General John F. Reynolds, bequeathed to the Society by his brother, Rear-Admiral William Reynolds, be presented at the stated meeting of the Society to be held in March next with appropriate ceremonies, and that Major J. Edward Carpenter, Colonel William Brooke Rawle, and Colonel John P. Nicholson be a committee to make arrangements in the matter, and to invite specially such gentlemen of the Army and Navy and others, as they think proper so to invite (reference being had to the size of the hall), and generally to take order and action in and about the said meeting and the presentation of the said picture, so that the same may be worthy of the memory, so far as the Society can make it so, of the gallant soldier whose life was given for the preservation of his country.

In accordance with the above resolution the formal presentation and acceptance of the portrait of General Reynolds took place at the meeting of the Society held March 8, 1880. The report of the proceedings is hereinafter contained.

WM. BROOKE RAWLE,

*Recording Secretary Historical Society of Pennsylvania.*





# REYNOLDS MEMORIAL.

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IN accordance with the notice given to the members of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and the special invitations to others, to attend the stated meeting of the Society held on the evening of March 8, 1880, the hall of the Society, in Spruce Street, Philadelphia, was filled to its utmost capacity. There were in attendance His Excellency the Governor of the Commonwealth, the Hon. Henry M. Hoyt, Brevet Brigadier-General U.S.V., Ex-Governors the Hon. Andrew G. Curtin and Major-General John F. Hartranft, the Pennsylvania Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, with Rear-Admiral George F. Emmons at its head, and many other distinguished officers of the Army and Navy, as well as many prominent citizens and ladies.

The chair was occupied by JOHN WILLIAM WALLACE, ESQUIRE, LL.D., President of the Society.

After the meeting had been called to order and the reading of the minutes had been formally dispensed with, the President said :

You are all aware, ladies and gentlemen, of the chief object for which we are assembled. The picture which the late Admiral Reynolds has bequeathed to our Society hangs before you, upon the wall behind the President's chair, against the crimson damask. The sword of honor in a golden scabbard, so handsomely inscribed, and with a hilt studded with diamonds, is suspended under the picture. As you will hear this evening, it was intended to have been presented to General Reynolds by his loving soldiers of the Pennsylvania Reserves. His untimely death prevented his receiving it, and his gallant brother, the Admiral, was made the custodian of it in his stead. Yon tattered flag hanging near the portrait is what is left of the corps flag of the First Army Corps which General Reynolds commanded at the time of his death.

The testamentary executors of Admiral Reynolds have requested

MR. JOSEPH G. ROSENGARTEN, formerly of General Reynolds's staff, his personal friend, and the friend of his family, to present this picture to our Society in their behalf. The selection of no gentleman could be more appropriate, and I have the honor to introduce him to you.

ADDRESS OF MR. J. G. ROSENGARTEN.

MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY:—By his last will, dated at Kobe, Japan, on the 25th June, 1876, the late Admiral Reynolds, then in command of the United States naval forces on the Asiatic Station, bequeathed to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania the portrait of his brother, the late General John Fulton Reynolds, painted by Balling, a Danish artist. I am directed by his widow and her co-executor, who is present on her behalf, to present to you that portrait. In doing so, I ask leave to submit a brief memoir of the lives and services of these two gallant sons of Pennsylvania. As the representative for this purpose of the family, I am debarred from even the customary license of eulogy, and my aim will be simply to give an account of their ancestry, their training, and their record in the naval and military service of the country. In the letters and addresses of their fellow-officers, from which I have made liberal extracts, there will be found eloquent praise of these two gallant brothers, who lent lustre to the respective arms of the service in which they spent their lives. The sword of honor which hangs below the portrait on your walls bears testimony to the affection of the soldiers of General Reynolds's command,—it was voted to him by the enlisted men of the Division of Pennsylvania Reserves, and after his death it was presented to the Admiral, who bequeathed it to their nephew, Lieut. John F. Reynolds Landis, U.S.A., by whose permission it is now loaned to this Society to grace the solemn ceremonies of the presentation of General Reynolds's portrait.

There are both in this country and elsewhere notable examples of two brothers achieving distinction in the sister services, but these cases are not so frequent as to allow the latest as well as the most shining instance to pass without special comment. There was much in common in the character of Admiral and General Reynolds. They were alike in their dislike of mere popular applause; alike in their zealous discharge of duty; alike in always putting their whole strength in all they did; alike in the high estimate put upon them by all who knew them; alike in enjoying the affection and confidence of all who served with them; alike in the hold they have gained upon the memory of those who

could best appreciate their abilities and their patriotic devotion to their country in its hour of direst need,—in the great struggle for its existence. General Reynolds gave up his life on the battle-field in the midst of health and strength, Admiral Reynolds died in consequence of exposure to the malarial fever of the East when he was in command of the Asiatic Squadron. He had undergone forty years before the hardships incident to his service as a subaltern in Wilkes's Exploring Expedition, but later was forced by ill health to go upon the retired list, and was employed for some years in the Sandwich Islands. He returned home at once on the outbreak of the Rebellion, and, although still disabled, sought and at once found active employment, and was soon restored to the active list as a reward for his successful discharge of the important and responsible duties assigned to him. Nor were these brothers alone in serving their country in its hour of peril. An elder brother was a paymaster, and a younger was the quartermaster-general of Pennsylvania throughout the war, and served with great zeal, rendering efficient and valuable aid to his commander, the war governor of that great Commonwealth, helping to call forth its strength and contribute its resources of men and means to meet the exigencies of those trying times, and to support the strain put upon its patriotism.

William and John Fulton Reynolds were the sons of John Reynolds, who was born near Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in 1787. He was the son of William Reynolds, a Protestant Irishman, who came to this country in August, 1762, was in the "Flying Camp" in 1776, and in 1778 married Catharine Ferree Le Fevre, the great-granddaughter of Mary Ferree, a French Huguenot, who settled in Lancaster County in 1709. This Mary Ferree came from the Rhine Provinces, where she had taken refuge from persecution in France, until a French invading army forced her to go still farther. Finally, with her three sons and three daughters and a large following of her fellow-countrymen, she found a home in Pennsylvania. She was a widow before she left Europe, yet so much of a leader that on her arrival she took up four thousand acres,—two thousand by grant from the Proprietor, who thus encouraged the settlement of an excellent class of emigrants, and two thousand by purchase. All of this and much adjacent land was subdivided among and settled by French and other Protestant refugees. They were all heartily welcomed by the Indians, whose king, Tanawa, lies buried in the grave-yard at Paradise, in Lancaster County, set apart by her. Her daughter, Catharine, married Isaac Le Fevre, who had come to this country with the Ferrees, in

his seventeenth year, first settling with many other French Huguenots in Esopus in New York, subsequently removing with his fellow-Huguenots to Pennsylvania. Their son was the first white child born in Pequea Valley, now one of the richest, most populous, and most fertile tracts of Eastern Pennsylvania. Penn, in a deed dated 1712, for land conveyed to Daniel Ferree and Isaac Le Fevre, described them as "late of Steinmeister, in the Palatinate of the Rhine," and the passport from the authorities of their native place speaks of them as coming "to the Island of Pennsylvania." Rupp, in his "History of Lancaster County," calls them Walloons. Redmond Conyngham reports a tradition that Mary Ferree was presented to Queen Anne at Hampton Court by Penn himself when she was on her way to his colony, and she was certainly treated with unusual honor as a representative and leader of the French Huguenots in their exodus to a new home.

The mother of Admiral and General Reynolds was Lydia, daughter of Samuel Moore, a Protestant Irishman too, an early settler in Lancaster County, and an officer of the Pennsylvania line during the Revolutionary War; although on the reorganization of the Continental army he lost his commission, his services were rewarded by a grant of land in the West and by a pension to his widow, and in 1794 he was commissioned by Governor Mifflin, an Associate Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Dauphin County. Her maternal grandfather, Samuel Fulton, another north of Ireland emigrant, gave to John Fulton Reynolds his middle name. The Reynolds' well bear out the strong praise given to their race by Judge Chambers in his account of "The Irish and Scotch Settlers of Pennsylvania," where, after premising that "character is said to be transmissible, and that of descendants may often be traced in that of their ancestors," he asserts that "in all stations under the National and State governments, civil and military, the men of the Scotch-Irish race have generally been prominent, eminent, patriotic, faithful, wise, judicious and deliberate in council, resolute, unwavering, and inflexible in the discharge of duty, and when called by their country to face the public enemy in arms, there were none more brave, fearless, and intrepid." John Reynolds, the father, was left an orphan at an early age, and coming from Lancaster to Philadelphia, became an apprentice to Archibald Bartram, a well-known printer in the early years of the century; he was made a partner before he was of age, and the imprint of Bartram & Reynolds is found on some important publications. Reynolds returned to Lancaster, and in 1820 bought the *Lancaster Journal*, established in 1794, which grew in importance under his management. He sold



it in 1836, and thenceforward devoted himself to the care of numerous important public and private trusts. He sat in the State Legislature for a short time, and he was honored with the esteem and confidence of all his associates there, while he was active and energetic at home in advancing the interests of his fellow-townsmen, and especially in the cause of education, taking a large part in securing the establishment of the system of common schools, and in every way maintaining the credit and distinction which made Lancaster pre-eminent in the State, and that at a time when its influence was quite out of proportion to its mere size. John Reynolds died in Baltimore on the 11th of May, 1853, leaving to his children the inheritance of a spotless reputation. William Reynolds, his second son, was born in Lancaster, December 18, 1815; was appointed a midshipman November 17, 1831; served on Wilkes's Exploring Expedition from 1838 to 1842, receiving his commission as lieutenant while he was with it, and went on the retired list in consequence of ill health in 1851. He was assigned to duty at the Sandwich Islands, and remained there until 1861, when he returned to the United States and applied for active duty. He was made commander of the naval forces at Port Royal, and on the recommendation of Admiral Dupont and Admiral Dahlgren, and at the urgent request of his juniors, was restored to the active list; became a commodore in 1870; served as Chief of Bureau and as Acting Secretary of the Navy in 1873, and again in 1874; and having been made rear-admiral December 12, 1873, was appointed in that year to the command of the United States naval force on the Asiatic Station, where he was again stricken down and obliged to return home.

It was while he was in Japanese waters that he made his will, bequeathing the sword intended to be presented to his brother, General Reynolds, by the enlisted men of the Pennsylvania Reserves, and after his death sent to the Admiral, as the representative of the family, to their nephew, Lieutenant John Fulton Reynolds Landis, now of the First United States Cavalry, and Balling's portrait of General Reynolds to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, thus showing that his last thought was of that brother's memory, and that his last wish was to perpetuate the name and fame of the gallant soldier whose death on the battle-field has forever connected him with the successful issue of the great struggle at Gettysburg.

Of Admiral Reynolds's services the Secretary of the Navy, in the order announcing his death, says, "In the administration of the duties committed to him he did much to improve the *personnel* and efficiency of the enlisted men of the navy, and in the discharge of all

the duties devolving on him during a long career in the service he exhibited zeal, intelligence, and ability, for all of which he was conspicuous."

Judge Allen, the Hawaiian representative at Washington, said, "Admiral Reynolds, when a young man attached to Wilkes's Exploring Expedition, made a thorough examination of the Hawaiian Islands. Returning there on account of ill health, he became strongly impressed with the importance of their position, not only as a resort for the mercantile and naval marine, but as an outpost of defense to the United States. He urged the establishment of more intimate commercial relations between the two countries, not only on the score of increased business, but as tending to strengthen the political position of the United States in its control of the great western world. His judgment was strikingly correct, not only in all that related to his professional duty, but in regard to promoting the commercial and industrial interests of the whole country. He seconded heartily the action of the government in negotiating the Hawaiian treaty of reciprocity, viewing it as of great political as well as commercial value, and urging on all the public men who consulted him on account of his long residence in the islands, the necessity of favorable action. His opinion was clear and emphatic that the treaty would give the United States a controlling interest in the islands, and it had great and deserved weight with those who, knowing his thorough acquaintance with the subject, could rely implicitly on his sound advice and his mature judgment. The Hawaiians have always borne in grateful memory his long residence in their midst, and his action in forwarding the treaty which has secured them a strong alliance with the United States, and saved them from the risks of an unwelcome protectorate from some distant power. It was eminently characteristic of Admiral Reynolds that in his successive visits to the islands and in his frequent intercourse with their representatives, he never failed to do and to secure justice to them, and to maintain the high and well-earned confidence which has always been put in our naval representatives by those countries with which they have had most to do."

Rear-Admiral Rodgers said, "I know that Admiral Dupont placed the greatest confidence in Reynolds,—his administration of his command was always admirable, he was always ready for duty, and no one was ever detained for a moment for anything which it laid in his power to do at once. The letters on file in the Navy Department show how valuable, how indispensable were the services he rendered to the fleet at Port Royal. At the Sandwich Islands, as elsewhere, he

was conspicuous for his attention to his duties and for his skill in performing them. To a ready command of language he united clear perceptions, a facile pen, and elegant diction,—he wrote well and with great strength. In losing Admiral Reynolds the navy lost one of its most devoted servants and one of its most esteemed officers.”

His last service was in command of the United States naval forces on the Asiatic Station. Sailing from New York in his flag-ship “Tennessee,” he went through the Suez Canal, receiving unusual honors from the Khedive of Egypt and from the British officers in India. In China and Japan, in Siam and Singapore, he discharged with great success the large discretion necessarily vested in our naval commanders in the East. Lieutenant-Commander White, who was a member of Admiral Reynolds’s staff, in his rough notes of his last cruise, speaks of the thoroughness with which he carried out all his orders and visited all the points prescribed, notably working to secure the success of his negotiation with the King of Siam and to re-establish friendly relations with his kingdom, and in all his dealings and intercourse making a strong and favorable impression on all with whom he was personally and officially brought in contact. In Japan, his relations with native as well as foreign dignitaries were always of the pleasantest kind. In China, he took his flag-ship close to the great China Wall, where it comes down to the sea, and afterwards visited Peking, and was received by the regent with the distinction due his rank and the country he so well represented. His health failing, he relinquished his command and returned home. This was his last duty; he soon after went on the retired list, and after a long illness he died in Washington, on the 5th of November, 1879, and was buried in Lancaster, Pa., near his brother, General John F. Reynolds.

John Fulton Reynolds was born in Lancaster on the 20th of September, 1820. Like his elder brother William, and with his younger brother James Le Fevre, he was sent to school at Litiz, a Moravian village laid out as a colony from Bethlehem in 1757, and deriving its name from a village in Bohemia, whence many of the United Brethren had emigrated to this country. It has always been famous for its schools. Originally there was one for boys belonging to the society and another for those of other denominations, but finally these were consolidated, and in 1815 put under charge of Mr. John Beck, who remained at its head for fifty years. In his valedictory address of 1865 he gives a catalogue of his pupils, and it contains the names of William Reynolds in 1827, and John and James Reynolds in 1833. Beck was noted for his social intercourse and parental influence with

his boys; he inspired them with a real love of work and a hearty enthusiasm in all their pursuits; he had the gift of teaching them how to learn, and in giving them a good practical education he made his school deservedly popular and successful, so that it left its marked and lasting influence on all those whose early education was begun under his fostering care.

One of Reynolds's school-fellows says of him, "He was a general favorite; of a kindly but very lively temperament, he attracted sympathy and love with all, and was held in high esteem,—his happy and joyous face showed that he belonged to a race of hardy scholars, working and playing in earnest." To give them a classical training the Reynolds boys were sent from Litiz to Long Green, Maryland, about sixteen miles from Baltimore, where the Rev. Mr. Morrison, a Presbyterian clergyman, had established a very successful high school in an old colonial mansion of the Carrolls. Afterwards they returned to Lancaster, attended the Lancaster County Academy, of which the Rev. Mr. Marcellus, a graduate of Union College, New York, was the principal; there they studied French and mathematics, and received their appointments, William going into the navy as a midshipman, John to West Point as a cadet. They received these from Mr. Buchanan, at that time a leading representative of Pennsylvania in Congress, and one of that strong body of able men who made the local reputation of Lancaster and carried it into the highest place in our government. With him as with his other contemporaries the elder Reynolds maintained a life-long intimacy,—the tie of Federalism bound them together for many years, and their friendship outlived their party, for they went together over to the new Jacksonian Democracy.

Reynolds was appointed a cadet at West Point on the 30th of June, 1837, being then nearly seventeen; he graduated on the 22d of June, 1841, number twenty-six in a class of fifty-two. Among his classmates were General Wright, now Chief of Engineers U.S.A., Lyons, Garesche, Tower, Whipple, Rodman, Howe, Totten, Garnett, all well known for their share in the late war, and in which like him they won honor and distinction.

He was appointed brevet lieutenant July 1, 1841, and second lieutenant in the Third Artillery October 23, 1841; first lieutenant June 1, 1846; was in the battery under T. W. Sherman in the battle of Monterey, and was for his services there brevetted captain September 23, 1846; was engaged in the battle of Buena Vista, on the 21st of January, 1847, and was brevetted major for his gallantry on that field. He was appointed captain March 5, 1855; was mentioned in general

orders for his services in the expedition against the Rogue River Indians in Oregon; took part in the Utah Expedition, under General A. S. Johnston, in 1858; and in 1859 was appointed commandant of cadets at West Point. May 14, 1861, he was appointed lieutenant-colonel of the Fourteenth Infantry, and on the 20th of August, 1861, brigadier-general U.S.V. At the request of Governor Curtin he was assigned the command of the First Brigade of the division of Pennsylvania Reserves, then under Major-General McCall, in front of Washington, Meade and Ord taking the other brigades. In May, 1862, he was made military governor of Fredericksburg, and it is characteristic of the man that when he was taken prisoner at the battle of Gaines' Mills, on the 28th of June, and sent to Richmond, the civil authorities of Fredericksburg went to Richmond to solicit his exchange. This was finally effected, and he was exchanged for General Barksdale, who was also killed at Gettysburg. Reynolds employed his enforced leisure in prison by preparing a careful report of the operations of his command in the campaign under McClellan, and on his release rejoined the army on the 8th of August, and was assigned command of the division of Pennsylvania Reserves, taking a distinguished part in the campaign of the Army of Virginia under General Pope; at the request of Governor Curtin he was assigned command of the militia at the time of the first invasion of Pennsylvania; returning to the Army of the Potomac, he succeeded General Hooker in command of the First Corps; on the 29th of March, 1863, he was appointed major-general U.S.V.; and on the 1st of June, colonel Fifth United States Infantry; on the 12th of June he was assigned to the command of the left wing of the Army of the Potomac, consisting of his own and the Third and Eleventh Corps, and of the cavalry division under Buford; and on the 1st of July, 1863, he fell at Gettysburg at the head of his troops, in the advance of the army, and at the very outset of the great battle.

The letters written by him during his busy career well illustrate his character. He writes from camp near Monterey, 6th of December, 1846, "In the first place, our battery was ordered into town on the 21st, with four guns, four caissons, and six horses to a carriage. It was discovered that only one gun could be brought into action, the remainder was therefore exposed to the fire from the enemy's works without being of the least use. It was therefore ordered back where it started from, and which it never should have left at the time it did; afterwards the men were of some use in driving back the cavalry of the enemy. On the 23d we were again in town, and suffered more in



the loss of men than we did on the 21st; in all we had twenty-two horses and about twelve or fourteen men disabled. My horse was shot on the 21st, but has entirely recovered, and is in much better condition than ever, inasmuch as he can go over his four bars and think nothing of it. There are but three of us now in the company, Thomas, myself, and French, Bragg having succeeded to the company poor Ridgeley commanded. What an unfortunate fate was his! A more gallant officer there was never in the service, or a more noble, generous companion; his death will be regretted by the whole army. He was looked upon as the real hero of the Resaca."

From camp near Monterey, May 16, 1847, he writes, "All I care for and all the reward I expect is the good opinion of my brother officers in the army. I have been gratified to my heart's content with all the honors of war, but I am in for the war and expect to see it through." Carleton, in his "History of the Battle of Buena Vista," makes frequent mention of Reynolds, who was in command of a section of T. W. Sherman's battery, and was with his two guns in May's cavalry operations, doing gallant service in repelling the attack of the Mexicans on Buena Vista, and aiding in turning the enemy's right at very close quarters.

In General Orders No. 14, of November 13, 1857, and No. 22, of November 10, 1858, from headquarters of the army, Brevet Major J. F. Reynolds, Company H, Third Artillery, is one of the officers "specially commended for skill, perseverance, and judgment in their conduct of the campaign of March, April, May, and June, 1856, in which, after traversing the mountains and valleys of the Rogue River, the troops had a number of severe conflicts, and compelled the Indians to surrender at discretion, thus terminating the war in Southern Oregon."

In September, 1859, he writes from camp at Fort Dalles, Oregon, describing the march of eight hundred and thirty-eight miles from Camp Floyd, Utah, having spent seventy-one days on the journey. He says, "And now we are at the end of the land route, about to ship the battery by water to Vancouver, ninety miles down the river. The march was tedious but very successful, and we are glad to get away from the despicable Mormons, whose hordes have seized the heart of the country and live in open defiance of the law." On the 18th of June, 1861, writing from West Point, he speaks of "the sorrowful condition of our only lately happy and prosperous country," and of the visit of Mr. Jefferson Davis, in the preceding September, with a committee of Congressmen "laboring to reorganize our national school, whose

sons never, until the seeds sown by his parricidal hand had filled it with the poisonous weed of secession, had known any other allegiance than that due to the whole country, or worshiped any other flag than that which waved over our youthful hopes and aspirations, and under which we marched so proudly in our boyish days. Who could have believed that he was then brooding over his systematic plan for disorganizing the whole country? The depth of his treachery has not been plumbed yet, but it will be." In a letter from Fort Trumbull, on the 15th of July, 1861, he says, "I left West Point on the 3d, and have been busy since dispatching officers of my new regiment on recruiting service. I would have preferred, of course, the artillery arm of the service, but could not refuse at this time, when the government has a right to my services in any capacity. We have just received the news of General McClellan's victories, and hope they are the harbingers of the ultimate triumph and vindication of the Constitution of our fathers." After he had gone to the field, on the 4th of November, 1861, he writes, "I put the division through a review, the form of which I arranged according to my idea of the proper formation and disposition of large bodies of troops; it was a decided success. We are to have a review of three divisions soon, and in the same manner, putting about thirty thousand men in, and allowing them to manœuvre and pass in review in proper order."

He did his best to make the Pennsylvania militia as useful as possible in the emergency for which he was called to command them in the autumn of 1862, and his labors were fully appreciated by those most competent to judge, although he was also the subject of much adverse comment by persons unwilling or unable even then to appreciate the advantage and necessity of strict military discipline. On the conclusion of this service Governor Curtin wrote him the following letter of thanks:

PENNSYLVANIA EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,  
HARRISBURG, 26th September, 1862.

GENERAL,—Having relieved you from duty as commander of the Pennsylvania Volunteer Militia, recently called out for the defense of the State, I deem it proper to express my strong sense of the gratitude which Pennsylvania owes for the zeal, spirit, and ability which you brought to her service at a period when her honor and safety were threatened. That for her security you left the command of your brave division, the Pennsylvania Reserves, thus losing the opportunity of leading this gallant corps at South Mountain and Antietam, is a just demonstration of the true affection you bear for your native State, which, be assured, her freemen reciprocate, and for which, in their behalf, I am happy to make you this acknowledgment.

(Signed) A. G. CURTIN.

TO BRIGADIER-GENERAL JOHN F. REYNOLDS, U.S.A.

In his letter from camp near Sharpsburg, Maryland, October 5, 1862, Reynolds says, "I finished up the militia just as soon as possible as far as I was concerned, though I was sorry to see they did not escape without an accident, which I was apprehensive all the time might occur. They were impatient beyond any conception, and finally exhausted my patience in one or two instances. The President visited us on Friday last. My corps, for I am commanding Hooker's temporarily, were kept under arms waiting in the sun for so long a time as to have entirely melted out what little remained of their enthusiasm." And on the 14th of October, speaking of Stuart's raid, he says, "When I heard that the enemy's cavalry had got over into the State I rejoiced, because I thought they must be caught before they recrossed the river, but their escape has given me quite a shock. I did not think they could perform such a feat in our own country. On the Chickahominy it was different,—the very audacity of the thing was the secret of its success. The State should have an organized force on the frontier, of cavalry, infantry, and artillery, to be posted on their exposed points, which could be moved with something like rapidity in a body. Militia without artillery would be good only to be paroled."

In his letter of November 30, 1862, from headquarters First Army Corps, camp at Brooks' Station, Virginia, he says, "The removal of General McClellan was a surprise to the greater portion of the army here, but, take it altogether, it created less feeling than I feared such a step would have done. I saw more of him on this march than I have done since he has been in command of the army; had been with him most of the time in the advance, and think the step taken by the authorities in Washington was as unwise and injudicious as it was uncalled for; yet the prevailing spirit, with few exceptions, is to obedience to the powers that be and a determination to do all that they are capable of under the new chief, who is as noble a spirit as ever existed, and who feels, no doubt, in his honesty of purpose, that he is fairly qualified to carry an army of such magnitude as this through a campaign. Very few are, that I know of, under all the circumstances. The country is not as favorable as Maryland, and the enemy are now in position where they can receive supplies and information *ad libitum*. We will have a hard campaign if we undertake to advance from this point, the roads and the country itself are not favorable."

Reynolds tells his own story in his testimony before the Committee on the Conduct of the War, as given on the 23d March, 1863 (vol. i.,

Part I., p. 593): "When the Rebellion broke out I was commanding the cadets at West Point, and joined the army in the field in September, 1861, when it was opposite Washington, under General McClellan. I was attached to McDowell's corps, in the division commanded by General McCall. I remained attached to that corps until the beginning of June, when the division was sent from Fredericksburg to General McClellan, by way of the Rappahannock and York Rivers. The division joined the Army of the Potomac at the White House about the 10th of June. I was present at the battle of Mechanicsville, on the 26th of June; it began in the afternoon, between two and three o'clock. The forces engaged were two brigades of McCall's division, occupying a defensive position along the line of Beaver Dam Creek, which had been selected prior to our arrival or about that time by General Porter, and the troops disposed on it by General Seymour and myself, under General McCall's direction. The enemy attacked the position on the two roads leading to the left and right with quite a large force and with great vigor. The action continued until nightfall, when the enemy were repulsed in every effort that he made to assault or to turn the immediate position on the right. About twelve o'clock at night I received orders from General McCall to evacuate the position and fall back on Cold Harbor Road to Gaines' Mills. I was present at the battle of Gaines' Mills, and my brigade was engaged for the greater part of the afternoon, and until our line was broken on the left and the enemy succeeded in cutting off a portion of the troops engaged on the right, and I was unfortunately cut off myself, so that I was made prisoner the next morning. I rejoined General McClellan's army at Harrison's Landing, and immediately reported for duty, and took command of the division of Pennsylvania Reserves. The division was ordered to embark for Acquia Creek, and debarked there about the 20th of August, when I proceeded to Fredericksburg and reported to General Burnside. I was then ordered to Kelly's Ford, on the Rappahannock; reported to General Pope, who assigned my division temporarily to General McDowell's corps. On the morning of the next day I received orders from General Pope to join him on the march to Warrenton. We took part in all the operations of his army after that time, being engaged in the battles of the 29th and 30th, retiring with his forces to the defenses in Washington."

In his examination before the Fitz-John Porter court-martial, General Reynolds testified on the 30th December, 1862, "I was a brigadier-general commanding the division of Pennsylvania Reserves.

I was attached to General Porter's corps in the Army of the Potomac. My command was the first from the Army of the Potomac to the Army of Virginia. After leaving Rappahannock Station, at which point my division joined the Army of Virginia, I was temporarily attached to General McDowell's corps. On the night between the 27th and 28th of August I was at Buckland Mills, between Warrenton and Gainesville. On the morning of the 28th, after passing Gainesville for a short distance, my column was directed to the right, to march on Manassas. On the 29th I was on the left of General Sigel's command, engaged with the enemy. I was on the extreme left of our troops, facing the enemy, and their right, towards sunset, had been extended across the pike, with fresh troops coming down the Warrenton Pike. I made an attack on their right with my division, but was obliged to change front to meet the enemy coming down the pike. I was forming my troops parallel to the pike to attack the enemy, which was on the other side of the pike, but was obliged to change front from front to rear to face the troops coming down the pike. They continued to come on there until they formed and extended across the pike. The enemy's right outflanked my left towards evening. The division was manœuvring almost all the morning, and indeed in action all that day. On the morning of Saturday, the 30th, I was up in the front, and found the enemy in heavy force to the front and left by personal reconnoissance. Between two and three the main attack was made by the enemy."

It was Reynolds's corps and Meade's division that, under Reynolds's orders, made the one brilliant success at Fredericksburg, attacking and breaking the enemy's line. That it was nugatory for want of prompt support was no fault of Reynolds or of Meade or of their troops. Their orders were carried out with impetuous and unhesitating courage, and it does not lessen the credit due them that so competent and impartial a critic as the Count of Paris, in his "History of the Rebellion," decides that the success of the movement would not have secured a victory for the Union forces. Reynolds, in his report, after describing the movements of his command, says, "Meade's division successfully carried the wood in front, crossed the railroad, charged up the slope of the hill, and gained the road and edge of the wood, driving the enemy from his strong position in the ditches and railroad cut, capturing the flags of two regiments, and sending about two hundred prisoners to the rear;" and concludes his account of the day's operations with marked emphasis: "The gallantry and steadiness of the troops brought into action on the left is deserving of great praise,



the new regiments vying with the veterans in steadiness and coolness. That the brilliant attack made and the advanced position gained by them were not more successful in their results was due to the strong character of the enemy's defenses, the advantage he had of observing all our dispositions, while he made his own to meet them entirely under cover, and the loss of many of the leading officers of the command."

In the complicated series of operations at Chancellorsville, Reynolds, with the First Corps, made a demonstration in force on the extreme left, and then moved with great speed to the extreme right, arriving there in time to take the place in line of that part of the force under General Hooker which had been overcome. In all the operations Reynolds was distinguished for his untiring activity, and a characteristic story is told of him that, when exhausted by fatigue, he coolly went to sleep at a council of war, after saying that he was in favor of moving on the enemy at the earliest moment, and he asked General Meade to vote for him, modestly adding, that as his corps had not been engaged, he thought the question of fighting ought to be decided by those who had been, but he was sure his men would fight as well as they had marched.

The report was current in the corps at that time that Reynolds had been summoned to Washington and offered the command of the Army of the Potomac, and that he refused it on the ground that there was too much interference from Washington; that no man could lead it safely or successfully without being freed from any such control, and that he preferred doing his duty as a corps commander rather than undertake an empty honor which carried with it no equivalent power or authority. It is characteristic of the man that even in his private letters to his family he never made any mention of the fact or in any way discussed the burning questions that were then making such sad havoc in the relations of the corps commanders and the commanding general of the Army of the Potomac and the authorities at Washington.

During the long and weary months spent on the Rappahannock, broken only by the unfortunate "mud march," Reynolds kept his corps in good heart; and at a time when it became a fashion for officers high in command to go to Washington to give advice as to who ought to be put at the head of the army, Reynolds remained steadily at his own headquarters, looking after his men, holding stoutly aloof from all personal or partisan quarrels, and keeping guardedly free from any of the heart-burnings and jealousies that did so much to cripple the usefulness and endanger the reputation of many gallant officers. His only utterances were his answers made under examination before the

Congressional Committee on the Conduct of the War, and in the long series of volumes of their reports, wherever Reynolds spoke, his testimony is clear, straightforward, direct, to the purpose, and entirely free from any criticism of those under and with whom he served. Those reports remain one of the most extraordinary features of the war, and make a surprising exhibition of the extent to which civilians sat in judgment upon military operations, and undertook to guide, direct, influence, and criticise them. It would be surprising, indeed, if soldiers in the field could have remained strangers to the partisan and personal influences thus directly brought to bear upon them, and it is perhaps equally plain that military headquarters in Washington were most injuriously affected by the necessity, real or imaginary, of conciliating the political leaders, who mistook the power and office of representatives of the people in Congress for a direct commission to control those who by military training, both at West Point and in the field, were best fitted to direct the movements of the armies, to select their commanders, and to give them that freedom of operation which alone can secure success. It was Reynolds's merit that he never would accept command unless it was unfettered and independent and absolute within its sphere.

When Lee began his second invasion of Pennsylvania, Hooker assigned Reynolds to the command of the right wing of the Army of the Potomac, consisting of his own corps, the First, the Third, under Sickles, and the Eleventh, under Howard. As soon as Hooker had crossed the Potomac, he directed Reynolds to send detachments to seize the passes of the South Mountain, and to follow and confine the enemy in its line of advance within the one valley in which he then was, promising to bring a strong force within supporting distance should the enemy turn back from Pennsylvania and offer battle to the force which Hooker was about to send upon its rear.

It is a tradition of the corps that when Hooker was about to be relieved, the command was again offered to Reynolds, who declined it in favor of Meade, and that it was only long after Reynolds's death that Meade learned this fact at the War Department. Meade and Reynolds had a long conference at Frederick City, Maryland, when the former assumed command, and the plans on which the army was operated were no doubt fully discussed between them. On the 28th of June orders were issued for the army to move on the following morning in three columns from Frederick, where it had been concentrated, the First and Eleventh Corps being directed to Emmettsburg, the cavalry under Buford on the left, covering the flanks and head of the infantry column.

On the 30th the order of march was issued for the movement of the army on the 1st of July,—the Third Corps to go to Emmettsburg, the First to Gettysburg, the Eleventh in supporting distance. Reynolds, in view of the near approach to the enemy, turned over the command of his own corps to Doubleday, and directed the general movement in close communication with Buford in the advance. Buford, with his division of cavalry, encamped at Fountain Dale on the 29th of June, and started at an early hour in the morning towards Gettysburg, but unexpectedly came upon a detachment of the enemy's infantry. It was a part of Pettigrew's brigade, of Heth's division, of Hill's corps. He moved towards Emmettsburg, and received orders to march to Gettysburg, and to hold the town, with the assurance of instant support from the infantry. On the same morning a portion of Heth's division, of Hill's corps, approached Gettysburg as near as the crest of Seminary Ridge, but after a short time countermarched, and by half-past ten had disappeared. In an hour after they had gone Buford arrived with his division, passed through the main street of the town, and out upon the Chambersburg Pike, and at a distance of a mile and a half went into position,—Gamble's brigade across the pike, Devin's across the Mummasburg and Carlisle Roads. Gamble threw out his pickets towards Cashtown, Devin his towards Hunterstown, scouring the country, capturing stragglers from the enemy, and obtaining information that satisfied Buford that the rebel army was converging on Gettysburg, and that heavy columns were already near that place. The Union army too was moving in the same direction, and on the night of the 30th, Reynolds bivouacked on the banks of Marsh Creek, four miles away, with the First Corps. Howard was with the Eleventh a few miles farther back, on the Emmettsburg Road. Sickles was with the Third Corps at Emmettsburg. General Reynolds was kept fully aware of the movements of the enemy by Buford, who had reported to him in person on the afternoon of the 30th, and through an aide of Reynolds's, who had gone with Buford to the front and returned late at night with the latest news.

Reynolds formed his troops for the night on ground and in positions from which he could fight, if attacked, until he could gather together and hold in hand his whole force, and reported the condition of affairs to Meade. On the morning of the 1st, Buford's line extended from the point where the Millerstown Road crosses Willoughby Run, across the Chambersburg Pike, around the Mummasburg, Carlisle, and Harrisburg Pikes, and the railroad, thus covering all the roads entering the town from the north and west. The guns of his light batteries were

placed on a ridge parallel with Seminary Ridge, about half a mile from it, where the rest of his forces were posted, dismounted, as a reserve. Lieutenant Jerome, Buford's signal officer, says that on the night of the 30th, Buford, in conversation with Devin, said the battle would be fought at this point, and that he was afraid it would commence in the morning, before the infantry could get up. Buford, in his report, dated August 27, says, "On the 1st of July, between 8 and 9 A.M., reports came in from the First Brigade, Colonel Gamble, that the enemy was coming down from towards Cashtown in force. Colonel Gamble made an admirable line of battle, and moved off to meet him. The two lines soon became engaged, we having the advantage of position, he in numbers. The First Brigade held its own for more than two hours, and had to be literally dragged back a few hundred yards, to a position more secure and better sheltered. Tidball's battery, commanded by Lieutenant Calif, Second Artillery, fought on this occasion as is seldom witnessed. At one time the enemy had a concentric fire upon this battery from twelve guns, all at short range, but Calif held his own gloriously and worked his guns deliberately, with great judgment and skill, and with wonderful effect upon the enemy. The First Brigade maintained this unequal contest until the leading division of General Reynolds's corps came up to its assistance, and then most reluctantly did it give up the front. A portion of the Third Indiana found horseholders, borrowed muskets, and fought with the Wisconsin regiment that came to relieve them."

Reynolds left his camp early on the morning of the 1st, and starting Wadsworth's division himself and putting the whole corps in motion, went on in advance, passing through the town to the Seminary, where he had a short but significant conversation with General Buford. From him and from actual observation he ascertained the real state of the case, and requesting Buford to hold fast the position he had secured, and promising to bring up the whole force under his command as fast as it could be concentrated, he dispatched a staff-officer to headquarters to report to Meade, another to Howard to bring up his corps with all possible speed, another to Sickles to come forward at once, another to hasten on the divisions of the First Corps, and then rode back across the fields to meet the head of his advancing column. This he took by the direct route he had improvised, leveling fences and hastily breaking a straight road for the troops to the ridge in front of the Seminary, where he found the enemy pressing Buford's cavalry, and at once led his men to their relief. Cutler's brigade, of Wadsworth's division, had the advance; three regiments, the Seventy-Sixth and One Hundred

and Forty-Seventh New York, and the Fifty-Sixth Pennsylvania, Wadsworth, by Reynolds's order, took to the right, facing westward, north of the bed of an old unfinished railroad; the two remaining regiments, the Ninety-Fifth New York and Fourteenth New York State Militia, Reynolds himself took, along with Hall's Second Maine Battery, to the south of the railroad, posting the battery on the pike, the cavalry withdrawing as the infantry went into position. The Fifty-Sixth Pennsylvania, under General Hofmann, had the honor of opening the infantry engagement.

Colonel Dudley, who succeeded General Meredith in command of the "Iron Brigade," says, in his report, "At a point about one mile south of the town the column left the Emmetsburg Road, bearing away to the west, and moved at double-quick across the fields to the crest of the Seminary Ridge, along which it moved with celerity to the Hagerstown Road, then bearing away again to the west, came into the low ground or swale immediately west of the Seminary; hardly had the first regiment arrived upon this ground when Captain Wadsworth, of General Reynolds's staff, brought information that the enemy were advancing in strong force along and upon both sides of the Chambersburg Pike, and almost simultaneously the Second Brigade became engaged upon the right. The directions of General Reynolds to the 'Iron Brigade' were to hurry forward and over the ridge in our front, and attack the enemy then advancing up its western slope. The Second Wisconsin being upon the ground, was at once directed to charge, and moved with their accustomed steadiness into the northern edge of McPherson's woods, and became at once hotly engaged. The Seventh Wisconsin and the following regiments were hurried up, and striking the enemy, forced them to retreat down the slope upon which he had been so confidently advancing. Reaching Willoughby Run at its base, the Twenty-Fourth Michigan and Nineteenth Indiana were hastily thrown across into position to enfilade the enemy's line."

The result of this dash was the surrender of General Archer with the larger portion of his brigade. The keen prescience of General Reynolds comprehended at once the importance of holding in check the advancing enemy and preventing, if possible, their occupation of so important a position. General Reynolds was personally attending to the hasty formation for the charge of the "Iron Brigade" when he was fatally wounded by one of Archer's skirmishers, at a moment when his aides were riding to the various regiments carrying the instructions of the general "to charge as fast as they arrived." General Doubleday, in his report, says, "McPherson's woods possessed all the

advantages of a redoubt, strengthening the centre of our line and enfilading the enemy's columns should they advance in the open space on either side. This tongue of wood was also coveted by the enemy, and Archer's brigade, of Heth's division, had been sent across the run to occupy it, and was already advancing upon its base when the 'Iron Brigade' arrived." Reynolds at once ordered it to advance at double-quick, and followed as the leading regiment, the Second Wisconsin, under Fairchild, hurried into the woods, full of rebel skirmishers and sharpshooters; as soon as the troops were engaged there, Reynolds turned to look for his supporting columns and to hasten them on, and as he reached the point of woods he was struck by a ball fired, it is supposed, by a rebel sharpshooter in one of the trees, and was fatally wounded; his horse carried him a few rods towards the open and he fell on the ground dead. Almost at the moment when his aides, Riddle and Wadsworth, had effected the capture of Archer's brigade, Reynolds fell, and the rebel brigadier-general and his men were marching to the rear while the dead body of Reynolds was carried in the same direction in a bier hastily improvised, a blanket swung over muskets, on the shoulders of his men. It was first taken to the Seminary, and when the fortune of the day was turning against us it was taken through the town to a little house on the Emmetsburg Road, where it remained until the final retreat of our forces was ordered, and then it was taken in an ambulance to Meade's headquarters and to Uniontown, whence it was brought by rail to Baltimore, on the next day to Philadelphia, and on Saturday, the 4th of July, to Lancaster, where it was quietly interred along side of his father and mother. Sixteen years later the body of his elder brother, Admiral Reynolds, was brought to the same spot.

There was a general expression of grief for the untimely death of General Reynolds, and an almost unanimous feeling that his services in seizing the position in front of the town and in boldly engaging the enemy with a largely inferior force went far towards securing the ultimate success of the battle of Gettysburg, and largely contributed to make it a crowning triumph for the Union cause. His name and fame are now indissolubly bound up with the history of the operations that culminated in the battle which finally and forever freed the North from the fear even of an invasion in force.

In General Doubleday's "Military Memoir and Report of Service" he gives an itinerary, from which, with his permission, I have made the following extracts, as throwing light on the movements of Reynolds in his last campaign :

June 14, 1863, Reynolds was given the command of the First, Third, and Eleventh Corps, constituting the right wing of the army. After the army faced about, this became the left wing.

June 20, Ewell crossed the Potomac at Williamsport with Rodes's and Johnson's divisions of his corps.

June 24, Lee, Hill, and Longstreet crossed the Potomac at Shepards town and Williamsport, and the columns united near Hagerstown.

June 25, Hooker's army crossed at Edwards' Ferry. The cavalry moved to Frederick City.

June 26, Early occupied Gettysburg.

June 27, Lee determined to concentrate near Gettysburg. Hooker relieved by Meade.

June 28, Meade assumed command, Reynolds returning to that of the First Corps.

Meade ordered the First and Eleventh Corps from Middletown to Frederick City, and thence through Mechanicsburg and Emmettsburg towards Gettysburg. The First Corps, under Reynolds, went to Frederick.

June 29, The left of the army at Emmettsburg. Buford's division covered the left flank, moving from Middleburg towards Gettysburg. The First Corps at Emmettsburg bivouacked on the heights to the north of the town; in the expectation that the enemy would advance in this direction, General Reynolds devoted several hours to selecting a position for a defensive battle; he chose a battle-ground with a stronger position back of it to retreat to in case of disaster. Buford's division of cavalry was at Fountain Dale.

June 30, it was ordered to Gettysburg to occupy it, with the promise of ample infantry support; he encountered part of Hill's division, and, having no orders to attack, made a circuit by way of Emmettsburg; as he approached Gettysburg a foraging party of Pettigrew's brigade, of Hill's corps, retreated through the town and fell back upon the main body, who were in the vicinity of Cashtown and Mummasburg. Buford bivouacked a mile and a half west of the town, putting Gamble's brigade across the Chambersburg Road, and Devin's across the Mummasburg and Carlisle Roads towards Hunterstown. The First Corps moved to Marsh Creek, the Third to Taneytown and Emmettsburg, the Eleventh to Emmettsburg.

The orders for the next day directed the First Corps to Gettysburg, the Third to Emmettsburg, the Eleventh to support the First.

The First Corps marched three or four miles to Marsh Creek, and took up a defensive position against the enemy, who were supposed

to be at Fairfield. Wadsworth's division, with Hall's Second Maine Battery, covered the Gettysburg Road, the Third (Doubleday's) Division, with Cooper's First Pennsylvania Battery, covered the Fairfield Road, and Robinson's division, with the remaining batteries, was posted on the left, towards Emmettsburg, as a reserve. Here at Marsh Creek Reynolds was again placed in command of the left wing of the army, consisting of the First, Third, and Eleventh Corps.

July 1, early in the morning, Heth and Pender's division of Hill's corps advanced to seize Gettysburg, but Buford determined to hold on until Reynolds's corps, which was six miles back, could come to his assistance. At 9 A.M. Heth's division, of Hill's corps, and Wadsworth's division, of Reynolds's corps, were each pressing forward to occupy Gettysburg. Davis' and Archer's brigades of the former came in contact with Buford's skirmish lines. Buford, with his batteries, kept them back until Reynolds arrived, at 10 A.M., with Wadsworth's division. The cavalry then withdrew, Gamble's brigade in rear of the left of our line. Devin's brigade picketed the roads to the north and east. After placing Cutler's brigade in position, Reynolds ordered Meredith's brigade to enter the woods and attack Archer's rebel brigade. Reynolds sent word to Doubleday, "I will hold on to the Chambersburg Road; you must hold on to the Millersburg Road." This was his last message to his second in command.

Still more valuable and interesting are the last dispatches that passed between Reynolds and Meade and Buford and Howard and Sickles. These, by the kindness of General E. D. Townsend, the adjutant-general of the army, and by the courtesy of Captain R. N. Scott, in charge of the war-records office of the War Department, I am enabled to add to, and thus complete, this sketch of Reynolds's last campaign. These have not hitherto been published, and therefore may have peculiar importance, as throwing light upon the events that crowded the last hours of Reynolds's life. It is characteristic of the affection with which his memory is cherished by his old comrades and companions in arms of the regular service, that they have all gladly given every aid in their power to contribute the material for this memoir. Reynolds's name is still dear to all who knew him in the army, and especially to his fellow-graduates, and to them all that he wrote and all that was written to him in reference to the last movements under his direction at Gettysburg will have a special interest that fully justifies this use of it in these pages.

*Reynolds to Howard*, June 30, 1863. "Buford is in Gettysburg, and found a regiment of rebel infantry there, advancing on the town, but which retired as he advanced,—reports a division of the rebels moving



in direction of Berlin. I forwarded the dispatches to Meade. Buford sent a regiment to Fairfield. I have one division and a battery on the Gettysburg Road, one division on the road to Fairfield from here, and one in reserve on the Gettysburg Road. I do not believe the report of the enemy's marching on Berlin. They are moving out into the valley, but whether to get to York or to give battle I cannot tell."

*Reynolds to Howard*, June 30. "Buford sends reliable information that the enemy occupy Chambersburg in force, and are moving over from Cashtown. I have taken position behind Marsh Creek."

*Reynolds to Butterfield*, June 30 (found on Reynolds's body). "I have forwarded all the information to you that I have been able to gain to-day. I think if the enemy advance in force from Gettysburg, and we are to fight a defensive battle in this vicinity, that the position to be occupied is just north of the town of Emmettsburg, covering the plank road to Taneytown. He will undoubtedly endeavor to turn our left by way of Fairfield and the mountain roads leading down into the Frederick and Emmettsburg Pike, near Mount St. Mary's College.

"The above is mere surmise on my part,—at all events, an engineer officer ought to be sent to reconnoitre this position, as we have reason to believe that the main force of the enemy is in the vicinity of Cashtown or debouching from the Cumberland Valley above it. The corps are placed as follows: two divisions of the First Corps behind Marsh Run, one on the road leading to Gettysburg, and one on the road leading from Fairfield to the Chambersburg Road at Moritz Tavern; the Third Division, with the reserve batteries, is on the road to Chambersburg, behind Middle Creek, not placed in position. This was the position taken up under the orders to march to Marsh Creek. I have not changed it, as it might be necessary to dispute the advance of the enemy across this creek, in order to take up the position behind Middle Creek, which is the one I alluded to, near Emmettsburg. Howard occupies in part the position I did last night, which is to the left of the position in front of Middle Creek, and commands the roads leading from Fairfield down to Emmettsburg and the pike below."

*Meade to Reynolds*, June 30, 11.30 A.M. "Your despatch is received. The enemy undoubtedly occupy the Cumberland Valley, from Chambersburg, in force; whether the holding of the Cashtown Gap is to prevent our entrance or is their advance against us remains to be seen. With Buford at Gettysburg and Mechanicsville, and a regiment in front of Emmettsburg, you ought to be advised in time of their approach. In case of an advance in force either against you or Howard

at Emmettsburg, you must fall back to that place, and I will reinforce you from the corps nearest to you, which are Sickles at Taneytown and Slocum at Littlestown. We are as concentrated as my present information of the position of the enemy justifies. I have pushed out the cavalry in all directions to feel for them, and so soon as I can make up any positive opinion as to their position I will move again. In the mean time, if they advance against me, I must concentrate at that point where they show the strongest force. . . .

"P.S.—If, after occupying your present position, it is your judgment that you would be in better position at Emmettsburg than where you are, you can fall back without waiting for the enemy or further orders. Your present position was given more with a view of an advance on Gettysburg than a defensive position."

June 30, 1863, Reynolds assigned command of the three corps forming the left wing, viz., First, Eleventh, and Third, by order from Headquarters Army of the Potomac.

*Sickles to Meade*,—June 30, Bridgeport, on the Monocacy,—inclosing orders from Reynolds, as follows: "General Reynolds wishes you to camp upon Cat-Tail Branch with your command, and for you to send a staff-officer to his headquarters. General Reynolds wishes you to face towards Gettysburg and cover the roads leading from Gettysburg." Sickles says, "It is in accordance with my written orders received from headquarters at 1 P.M., but in conflict with the verbal order given me by the general commanding while on the march. Shall I move forward? My first division is about a mile this side of Emmettsburg."

*Buford to Pleasonton*, Gettysburg, June 30. Reports that he entered at 11 A.M., found everybody in a terrible state of excitement on account of the enemy's advance to within half a mile of the town. "On pushing him back, I learned that Anderson's division was marching from Chambersburg by Mummasburg, Hunterstown, and Abbotstown in towards York. I have sent parties to the two first-named places, towards Cashville, and a strong force towards Littlestown. . . . The troops that are coming here were the same that I found early this morning at Fairfield. General Reynolds has been advised of all that I know."

*Buford to Pleasonton*, Gettysburg, June 30, P.M. "A. P. Hill's corps, composed of Anderson, Heth, and Pender, is massed back of Cash-town, nine (9) miles from this place. His pickets, composed of infantry and artillery, are in sight of mine. There is a road from Cashtown. . . which is terribly infested with roving detachments of cavalry. Rumor

says Ewell is coming over the mountains from Carlisle. . . . I have kept General Reynolds posted of all that has transpired."

*Reynolds to Buford*, June 30. "Have you ascertained positively about the infantry force of the enemy at Fairfield, whether they have fallen back or are still in the position they occupied at Newpilman's Farm? Send me word by bearer."

*Buford to Reynolds*, June 30, 10.30 P.M. "I am satisfied that A. P. Hill's corps is massed just back of Cashtown, about nine miles from this place. Pender's division of this (Hill's) corps came up to-day, of which I advised you, saying 'the enemy in my front was increased.' The enemy's pickets, infantry and artillery, are within four miles of this place, at the Cashtown Road. My parties have returned that went north, south, west, and northeast, after crossing the road from Cashtown to Oxford in several places. They heard nothing of any force having passed over it lately. The road, however, is terribly infested with prowling cavalry parties. Near Heidlersburg, to-day, one of my parties captured a courier of Lee's; nothing was found on him. He says Ewell's corps is crossing the mountains from Carlisle, Rodes's division being at Petersburg, in advance. Longstreet, from all I can learn, is still behind Hill. I have many rumors and reports of the enemy advancing upon me from towards York. I have to pay attention to some of them, which causes me to overwork my horses and men. I can get no forage or rations; am out of both. The people give and sell the men something to eat, but I can't stand that way of subsisting. It causes dreadful straggling. Should I have to fall back, advise me by what route."

Mr. James Beale, formerly of the Twelfth Massachusetts (First Brigade, First Division, First Corps), a diligent student of the military history of the Rebellion, has made some important contributions from unpublished letters in his collection as to the exact details of the opening of the battle. G. B. Garrison, who was employed by General Buford as a scout, writes that "I find in my old note-book that Reynolds came on the field twenty-five minutes before nine, in advance of his corps; the first infantry came on the field fifteen minutes after nine."

General Weld, then a captain and aide-de-camp on Reynolds's staff, finds in his diary that "at eight o'clock Reynolds and his staff started for the front. . . . On the crest of the hills beyond we could see the enemy's guns going into position; . . . a few hurried words from General Buford showed the condition of affairs. . . . General Reynolds turning to me [Weld] said, 'Ride at once at your utmost speed to

General Meade, tell him the enemy are advancing in strong force, and that I fear they will get to the heights beyond the town before I can. I will fight them inch by inch, and if driven into the town I will barricade the streets and hold them back as long as possible.' ”

General James A. Hall, who commanded the Second Maine Battery, writes, “ As to the selection of the position, Reynolds was *the* man. . . . Early on July 1st I heard Buford say, ‘ Reynolds, I have run upon some regiments of infantry near Gettysburg,—they are in the woods; I am unable to dislodge them.’ Reynolds at once dictated a message to General Meade in my hearing, something like this: ‘ Buford just now reports that he finds a small force of the enemy’s infantry in a point of woods near Gettysburg, which he is unable to dislodge, and while I am aware that it is not your desire to force an engagement at that point, still I feel at liberty to advance and develop the strength of the enemy.’ I was at Reynolds’s side for some little time at Seminary Ridge, having gone ahead of my battery at his request, and I rode from Seminary Ridge out to the position taken by my guns, some half-mile beyond the ridge, by his side, and all his remarks and appearance gave me the impression that he had gone there to stay.”

General Hall says, “ My battery was charged by the enemy’s infantry. I lost twenty-four men killed and wounded, had thirty-eight horses killed, six of them, all on one gun, being bayonnetted by the enemy.”

Reynolds’s death was felt at once on the field, and while it is not possible to see how even his enthusiastic and inspiring gallantry could have overcome the immense numerical majority of the enemy, there can be little doubt that his skill and courage would have done much to lend strength to the forces in hand, and that his fiery impatience would have quickened the arrival of the rest of his command. As it was, the first day’s battle at Gettysburg gave time for the concentration of the rest of the army on the hills back of Gettysburg, the heights which Hancock at once strengthened, and Meade afterwards defended, with such admirable appreciation of the vantage-ground that Reynolds had secured, by sending Buford to seize the hills in front of the town, and by bravely putting his slender infantry force against the overwhelming strength of the enemy. Such is the record of a life spent in the service of his country and sacrificed in the defense of the Union. His whole career is marked at every point by indefatigable zeal and distinguished ability, by the hearty approval of his superiors in command, the affection of his fellow-officers, the confidence of his men, the perfect trust of all who knew him.

In reply to the address accompanying the presentation of a sword

of honor to General Meade by the Pennsylvania Reserves, after Reynolds's death, Meade said, "Reynolds was the noblest as well as the bravest gentleman in the army; when he fell at Gettysburg the army lost its right arm." Professor Kendrick, an instructor at the Military Academy when Reynolds was a cadet at West Point, and still actively engaged there, his dear friend through life and still full of tender sorrow for his loss, thus sums up in the eloquence of truth the leading characteristics of his pupil,—“Although Reynolds entered the Military Academy as one of its youngest members, he quickly took a very prominent place in the confidence and esteem of his classmates, many of whom have since loyally written their names high in the military annals of the country, while his frank and manly bearing gained him the respect of the corps of instructors. Independent in thought and action, of clear and definite perceptions, his opinions, on all subjects within the range of a young man's discussion, were well formed and well maintained, and yet so calmly and courteously as to leave no sting in the breast of an opponent, but rather higher respect and greater friendship. He worshipped truth and duty in the highest acceptance of those words; with all these great qualities he went forth from the Academy to the wider field of army service, and as word came back again and again of his enviable progress, it was recognized as the expected fulfillment of his early promise. It was his good fortune to serve in the beginning of his military career in intimate connection with that other great man and soldier, George H. Thomas. Together and in the same battery they served in the gallant defense of Fort Brown, at the commencement of the Mexican War; together they fought successfully at Monterey, and together they struggled in the desperate and important battle of Buena Vista, which largely aided in the capture of Vera Cruz and the victory of Cerro Gordo. In all these conflicts on General Taylor's line, Reynolds was greatly distinguished for his calm courage, his modest self-reliance, and his military conduct. Of him General Taylor's accomplished chief of staff, Colonel Bliss, wrote, 'Your young friend has the general's high regard, and he is the idol of his men.' In his great and varied service in Florida, in Texas, in Mexico, California, Oregon, Utah, Reynolds always showed himself without fear, without reproach, and without an enemy. When he yielded up his life, still so full of promise, in the defense of his native State and of his country in the turning victory of the war at Gettysburg, it was but the fitting termination of his whole life. England 'almost regretted the victory of Trafalgar,' since it cost her the death of Nelson; our army and 'thinking men'

throughout the North, who knew his high worth and high prospects, regretted that Gettysburg could not be won without the loss of General John F. Reynolds."

General Devens, in his oration on General Meade and the battle of Gettysburg, said, "Reynolds was known to the whole army as a soldier in whose bravery and skill the most implicit confidence might be placed. Modest and simple in manner, with no trace of affectation or boasting, reliable as steel, a true soldier, he died a soldier's death, grandly contributing to the triumph he was never to share. Where could man better meet the inevitable hour than in defense of his native State, waiting with eager zeal and dauntless heart the advance of the coming foe?"

General Heth spoke, in his address at Bunker Hill, of the respect and admiration felt on his, the Southern, side towards Reynolds, "at whose death the nation well might mourn, and in doing so honor herself."

General Meade himself never ceased to bear witness to his sense of personal loss in the death of Reynolds, the fellow-soldier with whom he had gained his first distinction in the division of Pennsylvania Reserves, under whose orders he had earned his success at Fredericksburg, and who had opened the road for his crowning triumph at Gettysburg.

The "History of the Pennsylvania Reserves," almost an official record of the brave men who served in that splendid body, is full of the gallant deeds of Reynolds in his successive steps as brigade, division, and corps commander. It tells in detail the story of the eventful 30th of June, 1862, when "the Reserves, greatly outnumbered, were only able to hold the enemy in check by rapid and unceasing firing; their left was pressed back, and to the consternation of their mounted officers, who from their position had a view of the field, the troops on the right of the Reserves gave way in utter confusion. At this critical moment the gallant Reynolds, observing that the flag-staff of the Second Regiment had been pierced by a bullet and broken, seized the flag from the color-bearer, and dashing to the right, rode twice up and down his entire division line, waving the flag about his head and cheering on his men. The effect upon the division was electrical; the men, inspired by the intrepidity of their leader, rent the air with cheers, plied their tremendous musketry fire with renewed energy and vigor, and in a few moments the thinned ranks of the rebel regiments gave way before the steady and unrelenting volleys poured upon them." Gordon, in his "Army of Virginia," says that "Reynolds's division like a rock withstood the advance of the victorious enemy and saved the Union army from rout." The sword of honor voted to General Reynolds by the enlisted men of the Division of Pennsylvania Reserves, at the close of the Peninsula

campaign, was a natural expression of the affection and confidence with which his men always honored him.

The men of the First Corps, emulating the example of the division of Pennsylvania Reserves, soon after the death of Reynolds, set on foot the plan of a heroic statue on the field of Gettysburg; and now a bronze figure of Reynolds by Ward, one of the first artists of the country, fitly marks the part taken by Reynolds in that decisive battle. This noble monument now looks out over the field where he gave up his life, and thus emphasizes the pre-eminent services of Reynolds in securing the ultimate victory, by seizing the position commanded by the vantage-ground on which Meade placed and fought the Army of the Potomac. At a later day, the First Corps placed in the library at West Point, a portrait of Reynolds by Alexander Laurie, who, besides being an able artist, had served under Reynolds, and therefore was especially well fitted to portray his features. They may recall to future students of the Military Academy the example of one whose life and death are alike among the most sacred traditions and the most instructive lessons of West Point. Reynolds's was a face and figure worthy the sculptor's chisel and the painter's brush,—fully six feet in height, he was so well proportioned that he did not seem to be beyond the average; his dark hair and eyes, his ruddy cheeks, tanned by constant exposure, his pearly teeth, shining through his tawny moustache, his high cheek-bones that gave him almost the look of an Indian, his long, lithe figure, his almost perfect horsemanship, his quickness in motion, his simplicity in dress and demeanor, his watchfulness and incessant activity,—these live in the memory of the thousands who are proud to recall their gallant leader. General Reynolds was a true hero in life and in death,—his one purpose was to do his duty, and he did it without regard to cost or consequences. The affectionate confidence of all under whom he served and of all who served under him, and the honors freely conferred on him, are the best evidences of the well-founded reliance on his soldierly qualities. Rising steadily to the demands made upon his skill and military genius, he was as perfectly master of himself and all his faculties when he was in charge of a section of artillery in his first engagement in the Mexican War as when he commanded the left wing of the Army of the Potomac in his last battle. What he was as a boy he was to his last hour,—bright, cheerful, hopeful, earnest, zealous, enthusiastic, courageous, modest, and unassuming. These are all homely virtues, but their perfect union made and marked General Reynolds as a man fitted for the highest honors, yet seeking none. In the long roll of the

sons of Pennsylvania who have won honor for the State and for the Union, none served with more unselfish devotion and a higher aim; and coming as he did of a purely Pennsylvania stock, commanding largely Pennsylvania troops, and falling on Pennsylvania soil in defense of his State from invasion, it must be borne in mind that he was a soldier of the army of the United States, with no tincture of ultra State loyalty, and with no hesitation in doing his duty, wherever his lot was cast, in defense of the flag of the Union.

It is especially gratifying to those who are nearest to these gallant brothers in blood and name that Admiral Reynolds's bequest of the portrait of General Reynolds to the Historical Society is accepted with such fitting solemnities. Henceforth the visitor looking upon the worthies of the Commonwealth, whose portraits adorn its hall, will turn with reverent eye

“To him whose loyal, brave, and gentle heart  
Fulfilled the hero's and the patriot's part.  
To public duty true,  
Mild in reproof, sagacious in command,  
He spread fraternal zeal throughout his band,  
And led each arm to act, each heart to feel.  
These were his public virtues; but to trace  
His private life's fair purity and grace,  
To paint the traits that drew affection strong  
From friends, an ample and an ardent throng,  
And more, to speak his memory's grateful claim  
On those who mourn him most and bear his name,  
O'ercomes the trembling hand,  
O'ercomes the heart, unconscious of relief,  
Save placing this memorial o'er his dust.”

Gettysburg has his heroic statue, West Point his portrait, and now the Historical Society has enshrined him in a place of honor, to keep successive generations mindful of the noble life and the heroic death of John Fulton Reynolds.

I fear I have transgressed my time and your patience, and yet I have but imperfectly executed the task assigned me, of showing how well General Reynolds deserves the tribute you are now paying his name, by giving his portrait a fitting place upon your walls, and by enrolling the addresses made in his honor, on this occasion, among the records of the Society. On the part of the representatives of the late Admiral Reynolds, I now carry out his pious fraternal bequest, and hand over to you and ask you to accept and take in your keeping this portrait of Major-General John Fulton Reynolds.



At the conclusion of Mr. Rosengarten's address, SENATOR HORATIO GATES JONES offered the following

## RESOLUTIONS.

*Resolved*, That the Historical Society of Pennsylvania regards with admiration and gratitude those brave men, in whatever grade and rank in the army and navy, and from the highest to the lowest, who, during the late Rebellion, ventured their lives for the preservation of our country, and of that unity of government which constitutes us one people.

*Resolved*, That, herein repeating and approving the recorded declaration of its Executive Council, this Society entertains a profound affection and respect for the name and memory of JOHN FULTON REYNOLDS, late a citizen of Pennsylvania, colonel in the army of the United States, and major-general of volunteers, whose bravery and military skill, as exhibited on the field of Gettysburg, assisted in the highest degree in the preservation of this city from capture by the enemy in July, 1863, and in the overthrow of the rebellion against the Constitution, laws, and liberties of the United States of America.

*Resolved*, That the portrait of Major-General Reynolds, bequeathed to this Society by his gallant brother, the late Rear-Admiral William Reynolds, and now presented by the testamentary executors of the latter, is gratefully accepted by the Society, and will be preserved with honor among its most precious memorials.

These resolutions were seconded by His Excellency the Governor of the Commonwealth, HON. HENRY M. HOYT, as follows:

## REMARKS OF GOVERNOR HOYT.

MR. PRESIDENT:—I rise to second the resolutions just read, not as a mere matter of form. It is not a common fortune that an individual life has its confluence with the stream of national life in such time and mode, that the volume of the one is manifestly greater and stronger by reason of the other. It is not given to every one that his individual life finds its culmination in a national climax. Such was the happy and auspicious fate of that human soul which we call John F. Reynolds. Up to the years of his prime manhood he had gone along, an honorable, scholarly gentleman. Men of his name, his lineage, and community, had achieved honorable success in their various walks. A day was to come when this man—this plain citizen of Pennsylvania—was to become a vital factor in the highest problem the century was to solve. Two years of dreadful strain and tension had been upon the sinews and heart-strings of the American people.

Upon an early morning in July, General John F. Reynolds with his battalions streamed up the landscape lying between Cemetery Hill and Seminary Ridge. Behind the fringe of woods skirting the latter, and in and beyond the South Mountain looming up in the west, before

him were gathering and crystallizing the defiant forces of a mortal enemy of his country and himself. Closing up behind him were the brave and hardy veterans of another army under another inspiration. Under these conditions General Reynolds was borne out upon the crest of the first wave of that tide of battle which was soon to overtop Gettysburg,—ay, all America.

This man was then and there to stand for us all. Whatever there was in his culture,—whatever fruit in a busy and conscientious life,—whatever heroism was in his fibre,—whatever potency was in his garnered powers,—he held for the weal or woe of us all.

The great event found its great man. Up that smiling valley he had laid well the warp, across which, for three days, the woof of blood and death and victory was being woven in upon it by the awful shuttles of fire and shot and shell, and living men pressed into the deadly meshes. To-day, with the smoke and grime and agony wiped away, we may happily read the glowing tapestry which has come off that loom,—wonderful, but mocking humanity with the inscrutable plans by which a nation is to have life by the death of its citizens.

Is it not an auspicious fate that has left General John F. Reynolds the central figure in this human tragedy, which time is softening down for us into a grand epic?

Pennsylvania has a special ownership in the glories of Gettysburg,—not exclusive, for the sons of all the Commonwealths stood side by side there. But in whatever was critical, in whatever was decisive, her sons bore a conspicuous and honorable share. Upon the right flank, Gregg with his ubiquitous and conquering squadrons; at Culp's Hill, Geary and Kane; and then young Ricketts, who with his battery-men beating back all assailants with summer-heads, must always stand in the flashing foreground of all pictures of Gettysburg.

Hancock and his brilliant subordinates, holding in their hands the long lines of his corps, upon whose front fell and were ground to atoms the most sublime enginery devised by the diabolism of war; Birney, wedging in away off at the Peach Orchard; Crawford and McCandless and Woodward surging about the "Devil's Den"; Vincent upon the Round Top; and over all the masterful powers of George G. Meade, —some living, some dead,—a dreadful alternation of life and death. Surely, even to-night and here, brave women and strong men might weep at the sorrowing burdens borne by our brothers during those fateful days.

And, Mr. President, occasion of congratulation as this is for the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, rich as you are made in the posses-

sion of the sacred effigy which to-night you place upon your walls, sympathetic and grateful as are this audience and the great constituency behind you, it will be well for ourselves and our citizenship to stop often in our busy traffic and count the motives, the cost, and the uses of the work and the sacrifice of John F. Reynolds, and the other thousands who died with him at Gettysburg.

In our day, Mr. President, no occasion of this kind can be a mere formality.

The resolutions were thereupon unanimously adopted.

The PRESIDENT then said :

I now have the pleasure of introducing to you a gallant son of Pennsylvania whose name is inseparably connected with the history of the battle of Gettysburg,—GENERAL JOHN WILLIAM HOFMANN,—who had the honor of opening the engagement on the part of the infantry of the Army of the Potomac. He will give us a short account of the early movements of the first day's fight, as a preliminary to the principal address of the evening.

#### REMARKS OF GENERAL HOFMANN.

MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :—In complying with the request to make a few remarks upon the operations of the battle of Gettysburg, I am quite conscious that I shall have to ask you to accompany me over a field that has been traversed by many writers who have published the result of their labors. Therefore, if I shall fail to present anything that will be new to you, my plea must be my desire to add interest to the occasion, when we have assembled to do honor to the memory of one under whom I feel proud to have served ; one who had gained the respect and love of his officers and men to so eminent a degree as had General Reynolds.

I shall confine my remarks to the operations of Wadsworth's division of General Reynolds's own corps, but then commanded by General Doubleday,—General Reynolds being in command of the left wing of the army,—but more particularly to what concerned General Cutler's brigade, of which my regiment formed part, and to that which came under my own personal observation.

Come with me to the banks of Marsh Creek, where it is crossed by the Emmetsburg-Gettysburg Road. Here our division bivouacked on the morning of June 30, 1863. Excepting the bi-monthly "muster for

pay," and standing to arms to resist an expected attack, the day and following night were quiet. Next morning, at about eight o'clock, the brigade—consisting of the Seventy-Sixth New York, Fifty-Sixth Pennsylvania, One Hundred and Forty-Seventh New York, Fourteenth Brooklyn, Ninety-Fifth New York, and Seventh Indiana,—the latter, however, detached for special duty,—moved out in the order named towards Gettysburg, distant about four and a half miles. When about two miles from the town, the column was halted for a short time. I then noticed General Reynolds dismounted at the side of the road, examining what appeared to be a large county map. It was the last time that I saw him; ere another hour passed he had sacrificed his life upon the altar of his country.

As we neared the town, shells bursting in the air indicated that our cavalry, under the gallant Buford, was checking the enemy on the road coming east through the gap in the mountain at Cashtown. When within about three-fourths of a mile of Gettysburg, our column left the road, bore off to the west, and crossed the ridge which at about half a mile west of the town stretches along north and south for several miles, and is now known as Seminary Ridge; we crossed just south of the seminary building, then moved down the western slope, and at the foot of it met our cavalry that had rendered such valuable service and was now clearing the field for the infantry conflict which was soon to take place. In conformity with his instructions, General Cutler moved his leading three regiments north across the Cashtown Road and the railroad grading, which at this point is about one hundred and fifty yards north of the road and parallel with it, then moved some two hundred yards farther north. We here formed in line of battle, and moved a few yards westward, to near the crest of a swell, one of a great number that break the otherwise smooth surface of the land between Gettysburg and the South Mountain, some seven miles west of it. We now observed the enemy advancing in a line of battle extending far to our right, and just rising to the crest of the swell west of the one we were on. We immediately opened fire by regiment, and brought down a number of his men; our fire was almost instantly returned, killing a number of officers and men and wounding many more. General Cutler and two of his staff were unhorsed. Among the killed was Major Young, commanding the Seventy-Sixth New York, an estimable gentleman and a gallant soldier, one who had laid aside the cassock to gird on the sword in defense of his country's flag. He was, without doubt, the first of the long list of heroic officers who sealed their devotion to their country with their lives on the sanguinary field of Gettysburg. In my own regiment, Lieuten-

ant Gordon, whose commission was the reward for brave service on many fields, fell early in the fight, and now, with his fallen comrades, sleeps in the National Cemetery. Colonel Miller, of the One Hundred and Forty-Seventh New York, was carried to the rear severely wounded; he was succeeded by Major Harney, who was also wounded, but continued in command of the regiment. The two lines continued thus firing upon each other for some fifteen minutes, while on the south side of the Cashtown Road General Wadsworth had moved Cutler's two rear regiments forward to support Hall's battery, which he had placed upon an advanced ridge near the road.

Meredith's brigade arriving, its regiments, the Second, Sixth, and Seventh Wisconsin, Nineteenth Indiana, and Twenty-Fourth Michigan, constituting the remainder of our division, were soon, under the personal supervision of General Reynolds, deployed in a line extending south from the Cashtown Road, and were by his direction moving forward when he met his death, as supposed, from the hand of a rebel sharpshooter. The love borne for General Reynolds by his officers and men I have before alluded to. In the National Cemetery, close by, they have recorded it in granite and bronze for future generations to read.

The small force of Wadsworth's division, numbering not over three thousand eight hundred, with one battery, was all that at this hour could be interposed between Gettysburg and a whole corps of the enemy, present or fast approaching. An hour and a half to two hours must elapse ere the other two divisions of our corps could arrive. It would seem to be a correct conclusion that General Reynolds intended that General Wadsworth's division should keep the enemy at bay, west of Seminary Ridge, until the whole corps could be assembled at that place; and faithfully the division performed this duty. True, when an overwhelming force of the enemy was moved against General Cutler's three small regiments on the right, General Wadsworth directed them to retire to Seminary Ridge, and ordered the battery to withdraw from its advanced position; but when the enemy, mistaking the nature of the movement, attempted to rush impetuously forward, they were signally checked, first by a volley from one of these three regiments, and then by the capture of two of their entire regiments by the Fourteenth Brooklyn, Colonel Fowler, and the Ninety-Fifth New York, Colonel George H. Biddle, which formed the left of Cutler's brigade, aided by the Sixth Wisconsin, Lieutenant-Colonel Dawes, of Meredith's brigade. Thereupon Cutler's three right regiments immediately resumed the line they had occupied when the battle opened, and held it well on to one o'clock. Meredith's brigade in moving forward

had captured some three hundred prisoners, including two brigadier-generals.

The enemy now received large reinforcements by the Carlisle Road, coming in on our right; this necessitated a change of front. General Cutler accordingly formed his line facing north at the north end of the wood upon Seminary Ridge. We again became speedily engaged with the enemy; but our ammunition was mostly expended in the first onset; what was then left was now soon exhausted; we could no more than hold the ground.

By this time, however, the Second Division of our own corps, under General Robinson, had arrived; one of his brigades, commanded by General Baxter, he of Michigan, who had won his star for gallantry in leading the "forlorn hope" across the Rappahannock at the first battle of Fredericksburg, and who had among his regimental commanders Colonel (now General) Coulter, of the Eleventh Pennsylvania, who had crossed the Cerro Gordo with Scott, aiding in the capture of Chapultepec and the city of Mexico, and our late townsman, Colonel Lyle, of the Ninetieth Pennsylvania, now known as the Second Regiment National Guards of Pennsylvania, came to our relief. General Baxter, leading with the same spirit that had distinguished him at Fredericksburg, soon sent some four hundred prisoners to the rear. Then came a brigade under General Paul, a major in the regular service, distinguished at South Mountain and at Antietam, a gentleman whose estimable qualities did much to bring about pleasant relations between regular and volunteer officers, gallantly leading his brigade over the crest of the ridge, to be carried back soon after to linger in a world of physical darkness. Two divisions of the Eleventh Corps which had arrived were sent to support the right of the First Corps, but the disposition failed to accomplish its object. The right of the First Corps still rested in air. It became evident that, when the avalanche that the enemy was preparing on the height beyond our right should be rolled down, it would be impracticable to hold our line. A little before four o'clock we received orders to retire. Wadsworth's division moved to the rear by the way of the railroad embankment at the northwest angle of the town, and, while crossing it, suffered considerably from the fire of the enemy now on Seminary Ridge. While passing through the town our progress was necessarily slow: the streets were full of wounded men. When the head of the column reached the Baltimore Road, it came in contact with the troops of the Eleventh Corps, and our progress was checked: this check, although but momentary, caused a large loss of prisoners at the rear of the column which was intercepted.

Soon the two columns surged together, and all organization was for the moment gone. The current moved south over the Baltimore Road to the foot of the northern slope of Cemetery Ridge, which comes north in a broken line from the Round Top Mountain, some three miles south of Gettysburg, to within half a mile of the town, then curves to the east and ends in the elevation known as Culp's Hill. It became evident, as we moved up the slope, that we were approaching a point where the topographical features of the ground would in some measure compensate for the absent corps. But where each individual brigade or regimental commander should reform his men, whether upon the right or upon the left, seemed to be a difficult subject to decide; the orders received were constantly conflicting. Under these circumstances we moved up the slope, and at the crest met a group of mounted officers; among them, one whose qualities were such as eminently fitted him for the critical hour. He saw before him a commingled mass of troops, troops of the army whose fortunes he had shared from its birth. He knew that the discipline that had been instilled by him who had organized them into an army—that grand, undaunted, indestructible Army of the Potomac—was still within them. Directing this division to reform upon the right, that one upon the left, it was but a short time till he had wrought order from chaos. This accomplished, he directed the occupation of Culp's Hill. The hill was soon occupied, but not a moment too soon. The Seventh Indiana, of our brigade, detached in the morning for special duty as I have stated, and not engaged in conflict with the enemy, rejoined us as we were forming in the cemetery, and, being a compact organization, it was sent at once to form a line on Culp's Hill. Major Grover, its commanding officer, established a line from the pinnacle down to the foot of the eastern slope, and on his way back to his centre encountered and captured a scout of the enemy, who had crossed the hill before the line was established, and was on his way back, with the report that the hill was not occupied by our troops. Grover's line of pickets was soon reinforced into a line of battle, which, on the following evening, successfully repulsed the desperate assault made by the enemy to capture the hill. It has always seemed to me that the merit for restoring order, and the foresight in directing the occupation of Culp's Hill, have failed to be fully appreciated by those who have written upon the subject. Without Culp's Hill in our possession we could never have held our line on Cemetery Ridge on the second and third day of the battle. That line on Culp's Hill became the high-water line of the tidal wave of the Rebellion; that far north had human slavery again carried her shackles, and from that line it

ebbed back, back to Appomattox. Mr. President and members of the Historical Society, whose special province it is to collate and make record of all that concerns the history of our great State, the events that occur within her borders, the deeds of her sons, I desire to place myself upon record with you as saying that the officer to whom I have alluded as having rendered such inestimable service on that memorable evening is a son of Pennsylvania, and that his name is Winfield Scott Hancock.

The PRESIDENT:

The next speaker whom we shall have the pleasure of listening to is one whom we all know, and whom we all honor, a citizen of Philadelphia who rendered us "yeoman's service" indeed on the first of those three trying days of Gettysburg. You will confirm every word that I say when I pronounce the name of COLONEL CHAPMAN BIDDLE.

#### ADDRESS OF COLONEL CHAPMAN BIDDLE.

##### THE FIRST DAY OF THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG.

The failure of Hooker in the early part of the month of May of the year 1863 at Chancellorsville, following within a few short months the repulse of the Army of the Potomac at Fredericksburg, produced a profoundly painful impression on the public mind in the Northern States. For a second time it became necessary for the Army of the Potomac to recross the Rappahannock, and to seek security on the commanding heights of Stafford, while it prepared itself for a renewal of the contest which every lover of the Union most earnestly hoped might lead to favorable results. Notwithstanding his recent and signal success, Lee fully realized the fact that it had been achieved, to use the language of Longstreet, "at such a terrible sacrifice that half a dozen such victories would have ruined" him; or as Lee himself subsequently stated in conversation to Major Seddon, "At Chancellorsville we gained another victory; our people were wild with delight. I, on the contrary, was more depressed than after Fredericksburg; our loss was severe, and again we had gained not an inch of ground, and the enemy could not be pursued." . . . "I considered the problem in every possible phase, and to my mind it resolved itself into the choice of one of two things,—either to retire on Richmond and stand a siege, which must ultimately have ended in surrender, or to invade Pennsylvania. I chose the latter." For in his judgment sound military policy required that he should not only assume the aggressive, but that he should transfer the theatre of the war to the north of the Potomac, where the country had been almost entirely exempt from its devastation and horrors.



Other considerations, too, of even greater importance were intimately connected with the military ones. The material resources of the South had already suffered greatly, and were scarcely adequate to the unintermittent demands which had been, and which were still likely to be, made upon them if the struggle were much longer protracted, and a successful termination of the war on their part seemed to the reflecting portion of the Southern people to be somewhat problematical without either the support or the countenance of England and France. For this latter object the recognition of the independence of the Confederacy was vital, but it had from one cause or other, however, been postponed from time to time, chiefly, as was commonly supposed, by the apprehension of the governments of those countries of rashly committing themselves to an act which might in the future involve them in international complications with the United States of a serious nature. A successful invasion of the North, however, would be succeeded by consequences which the Cabinet of Richmond not unreasonably believed would lead to the realization of their earnest desires. Hence under these combined political and military considerations a plan of campaign was prepared without delay and speedily put in execution. In his first or preliminary official report of the battle of Gettysburg, General Lee thus outlines his views upon the subject: "The corresponding movements on the part of the enemy, to which those contemplated by us would probably give rise, might offer a fair opportunity to strike a blow at the army" of General Hooker,—that in any event that army would be compelled to leave Virginia, that the enemy's plan of campaign be broken up, and that "in addition to these advantages it was hoped that other valuable results might be attained by military success." As one of these other results it has been stated with a certain degree of positiveness in some of the Southern newspapers that it was part of Lee's purpose to fire and in this manner destroy the anthracite mines of Pennsylvania. But be this as it may, Lee in his final report, of January, 1864, of the Pennsylvania campaign, etc., makes no allusion to any anticipated additional valuable results. General Early, who has since, with a number of others, discussed the subject of the propriety of the invasion, considers that it was, at the time it was undertaken, "a wise and judicious movement, notwithstanding the fate that attended it."<sup>1</sup>

The first step towards the execution of the new plan was the reorganization of the Army of Northern Virginia, which was then formed into three *corps d'armée*, each under the command of a lieutenant-gen-

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<sup>1</sup> Southern Historical Society Papers, vol. iv. p. 56.

eral. Longstreet was assigned to the first corps, composed of the divisions of McLaws, Pickett, and Hood; the second, comprising the divisions of Early, Rodes, and Johnson, was placed under the command of Ewell, in accordance with a request made by Stonewall Jackson, on his death-bed, out of solicitude for the welfare of his veterans;<sup>1</sup> and the third, whose divisions were under Anderson, Heth, and Pender, was assigned to A. P. Hill. The cavalry, which had also been strengthened by several new brigades from the South, was formed into a separate corps of three divisions, commanded by Hampton, Fitz-Hugh Lee, and William H. F. Lee.<sup>2</sup> Major Von Bocke, a Prussian officer, who was the assistant adjutant and inspector-general of General J. E. B. Stuart, in referring to this body of cavalry, remarks that "the magnificent spectacle of so many thousand troopers splendidly mounted made the heart swell with pride, and impressed one with the conviction that nothing could resist the attack of such a body of troops."<sup>3</sup> In the opinion of General Lee's military secretary, the recent victories of the Confederate army, "with the care bestowed on its reorganization, equipment, and discipline," rendered "its spirit and efficiency unsurpassed by any army of modern times."<sup>4</sup>

Longstreet, one of Lee's best lieutenants, and on whom great reliance was placed, doubted, however, from the first the wisdom of the proposed invasion from a military point of view, and urged upon his chief that the campaign could only be brought to a successful issue provided it were made "offensive in strategy, but defensive in tactics." Indeed, he went so far as to present, as a substitute, an entirely different plan, one which contemplated "the idea of a Western forward movement." However just or otherwise Longstreet's views may have been, it is not important now to discuss them, though it may be mentioned that Early has declared Longstreet's plan of a tactical defense to be "a simple absurdity."<sup>5</sup> At all events, Lee remained fixed in and acted upon his opinion, and when recurring to the subject a short time before Grant crossed the Rapidan, in the spring of 1864, said to General Heth, in the course of conversation, "If I could do so,—unfortunately I cannot,—I would again cross the Potomac and invade Pennsylvania. I believe it to be our true policy notwithstanding the failure of last year. An invasion of the enemy's country breaks up all of his preconceived plans, relieves our country of his presence, and we subsist

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<sup>1</sup> Von Bocke, p. 399.

<sup>2</sup> *Idem*, p. 399.

<sup>3</sup> *Idem*, p. 402.

<sup>4</sup> Southern Historical Society Papers, vol. iv. p. 119.

<sup>5</sup> *Idem*, vol. iv. p. 281, note.

while there on his resources. The question of *food for this army* gives me more trouble and uneasiness than *everything else combined*; the absence of the army from Virginia gives our people an opportunity to collect supplies ahead. The legitimate fruits of a victory if gained in Pennsylvania could be more readily reaped than on our own soil. We would have been in a few days' march of Philadelphia, and the occupation of that city would have given us peace."<sup>1</sup>

When the reorganization of the army and other preliminaries had been completed, Lee, on the 3d of June, commenced his Northern movement. The division of McLaws marching out of Fredericksburg for Culpepper Court-House, followed by Ewell's corps on the 4th and 5th; Hood's division and Stuart's cavalry moving at the same time. So that by the 8th of that month two of the corps and Stuart's cavalry had concentrated at Culpepper Court-House.

Early in June, Hooker had obtained information that Lee was gradually withdrawing his forces from Fredericksburg in the direction of Culpepper Court-House. To test the accuracy of this intelligence, which, if true, was most important in its relation to the campaign then about opening, he directed a reconnoissance in force to be made by the cavalry, supported by two small brigades of infantry. The result of this reconnoissance, which, if its objects are kept in view, was altogether favorable, has not only been magnified into a severe repulse on the part of the Union forces by General Lee, but Longstreet has even censured Lee for failing to pursue his advantage by hurling the heavy Confederate corps then at Culpepper Court-House upon the Federal detachment. Assuredly the cavalry of the Army of the Potomac have no reason to regret the issue of the engagement at Beverly Ford, or, as it is sometimes termed, that of Brandy Station. It was the first occasion when as a body it went into action, and whilst perhaps, if the divisions of Buford and Gregg had been connected from the first, instead of having been separated by an interval of five or six miles, when crossing the Rappahannock on the 9th of June at Beverly and Kelly's Fords, still greater results might have been achieved, yet their work was both faithfully and well done. Stuart's headquarters were captured, and from them was supplied information which enabled Hooker to keep pace with the invading army; Stuart's march was thereby delayed; the direction of Lee's army was changed and prevented from attempting to cross the Potomac near Washington, and Stuart held in check by the subsequent brilliant engagements of Aldie, Middleburg, and Upperville,

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<sup>1</sup> Southern Historical Society Papers, vol. iv. p. 153.

on the 17th, 19th, and 21st days of June, until the Union army had moved into Maryland. At Upperville, "very many charges were made and the sabre used freely, but always with great advantage to"<sup>1</sup> the Federal troops. The valuable services rendered by the cavalry will again appear when the events connected with the great battle of Gettysburg are brought to notice.

Quick to comprehend the significance of the intelligence thus imparted to him by the reconnoissance, Hooker became at once convinced that the movement northward on the part of Lee was the commencement of a real campaign, and, as a preparatory measure, placed General Reynolds, on the 12th of June, in command of the right wing of the army, consisting of his own (the First), the Third, and the Eleventh Corps, which, after it faced about and commenced its northward march, became the left wing, together with the cavalry, directing him to proceed along the line of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad to Manassas. The remaining four corps of the Federal army followed on the succeeding day. As soon as it was known to Hill that Hooker had withdrawn his forces from the heights in front of Fredericksburg, the former commenced his march in the direction of Ewell, who, under his instructions, had proceeded down the Valley of Virginia. Before Ewell reached the Potomac, Lee notified Stuart that the former would cross that river on a certain day and at a certain point, that Hill was to follow, and that Longstreet would hold the gaps in the mountains and protect the crossing of those two corps. After Hill had crossed Longstreet was to vacate the gaps and follow Hill. When this had been accomplished Stuart was to seize the gaps and protect Longstreet's crossing; later he was to throw himself on the right flank of the army, watch the enemy, furnish information, and *collect supplies*. To cover the two corps in their march through the valley, Longstreet left Culpepper Court-House on the 15th, pursuing the route along the easterly side of the Blue Ridge, occupying the gaps as occasion required, whilst Stuart, under his discretionary powers from Lee, moved in front and on the right flank of Longstreet. Meanwhile, Hooker, closely watching the movements of his adversary, skillfully manœuvred so as to guard the approaches to Washington, keeping himself at the same time in a position instantly to assail Lee whenever a fitting opportunity might offer. The intended act of invasion, however, in a dispatch of the 15th to the President, Hooker characterized as one of desperation on the part of Lee, "no matter in what force he moves."

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<sup>1</sup> Report on the Conduct of the War, Part I., p. 280.

After one or two affairs in the valley, by which Milroy was brushed away, the First and Third Corps of the Confederate army, on reaching the Potomac, crossed it, the former at Williamsport and the latter at Shepherdstown, and uniting at Hagerstown, from there marched up the Cumberland Valley to Chambersburg, arriving at the latter place on the evening of the 27th. Ewell had entered Pennsylvania on the 22d with two of his divisions, preceded by Jenkins's cavalry, which numbered, according to General Stuart's estimate, about three thousand eight hundred<sup>1</sup> (but which number Fitz-Hugh Lee regards as a misprint for sixteen hundred<sup>2</sup>), and from Chambersburg had sent one of his divisions, that under the command of General Early, through Gettysburg to York, and the other to Carlisle. On the 26th of June, Early entered Gettysburg with five thousand infantry and a squadron of cavalry, and whilst there endeavored, in execution of one of Lee's general objects, to levy contributions on the town. His requisition for supplies, including shoes, amounted in the aggregate to about six thousand dollars. To this, however, the town was altogether unable to respond, and being satisfied that such was the fact he made no effort to enforce his demand. The next day he resumed his march to Hanover Junction and York, intending to advance from the latter place upon Harrisburg, in obedience to orders which had been issued upon the supposition that Hooker was still on the other side of the Potomac. Early's advance upon Harrisburg was, however, arrested in consequence of intelligence having been received by General Lee on the night of the 28th, from a scout, to the effect that the Federal army had not only crossed the Potomac, but that the head of the column was then at Frederick City. The communications of the Confederate forces being thus threatened, it became, in Lee's opinion, absolutely necessary—and it may be in consequence of a suggestion from Longstreet that the order was given—to concentrate the army to the east of the mountains, and thereby check any farther movement on the part of Hooker to the west.

Throughout his entire march the vigilance of Hooker had been unceasing, so that at the moment he became convinced that his adversary had either crossed or was about to cross the Potomac he commenced the passage of the river some thirty-five or forty miles below Shepherdstown, on the 25th and 26th, at Edward's Ferry. Without at all intending to enter into a discussion of Hooker's plan of campaign after his army reached Maryland, it is nevertheless proper to refer briefly to its leading features, which contemplated confining the enemy to a single

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<sup>1</sup> Southern Historical Society Papers, vol. ii. p. 76.

<sup>2</sup> Idem, vol. v. p. 165.

line of invasion by seizing Turner's and Crampton's Passes of the South Mountain; the cutting of their communication at Williamsport, and abandoning the indefensible post at Harper's Ferry, together with Maryland Heights opposite, which was at that time a strategic point of no consequence, which defended no ford in the river, and which was not a defense to the Cumberland Valley.<sup>1</sup> To secure the first object General Reynolds was directed to send detachments to seize those passes in the mountain near Boonsboro', and to take position in the valley at Middletown with the left wing.<sup>2</sup> In connection with the second, the left wing at Middletown would be available for an attack upon Lee, in flank, in case he should attempt to turn upon the corps sent by Hooker from below to operate against the Confederate rear.<sup>3</sup> Captain Chesney, of the Royal Engineers, professor of military history, Sandhurst College, a military critic of some reputation, in referring to this plan, says, "We may search the history of modern campaigns in vain to find a more striking example of the effect produced by operating on the enemy's communications than that of this movement of Hooker's." . . . "A glance at the map will show why the little town of Gettysburg" was chosen by Lee, "as the most convenient point whereon to assemble his scattered divisions; lying, as it does, nearly equidistant from the stations they occupied at Hagerstown, Chambersburg, Carlisle, and York."<sup>4</sup> General Halleck, however, then general-in-chief of the Union army, declined to approve the abandonment of Harper's Ferry and Maryland Heights, although in less than two days thereafter he reversed his decision on this point at the request of General Meade, who, in the mean time, had been appointed to the command of the Army of the Potomac. Hooker felt, and by no means unnaturally, that to have his plans thus interfered with on the eve of the important operations about to commence was calling in question his military capacity in such a manner as to leave him no alternative but to request to be at once relieved from his command. Accordingly, on the afternoon of the 27th he telegraphed to Washington his desire, and on the following morning, Sunday, he received by the hands of a special messenger official notification of his having been relieved, together with an order directing him to turn over the command to General Meade, then in charge of the Fifth Corps, "a brave and accomplished officer, who,"

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<sup>1</sup> Report on the Conduct of the War, Part I., p. 174.

<sup>2</sup> *Idem*, Part I., p. 169.

<sup>3</sup> *Idem*, Part I., p. 174.

<sup>4</sup> Campaigns in Virginia, Maryland, etc., by Captain Chesney, R.E., vol. ii. p. 31.

as Hooker, in his farewell order to the army, adds, "had nobly earned the confidence and esteem of this army on many a well-fought field."<sup>1</sup> Thus was terminated the connection of General Hooker with the Army of the Potomac. Whatever opinions in regard to his ability as a chief on the field of battle may be entertained in consequence of the unfortunate issue of Chancellorsville, he is nevertheless justly entitled to high commendation for strategic skill, zeal, and vigilance while conducting that portion of the campaign of 1863 commencing on the return of the army to the heights of Stafford, and terminating upon his withdrawal from that army at Frederick City.

On assuming his most responsible trust, General Meade, in a short and manly order to his army, gave expression to the almost universal sentiment of the people of the North by declaring that "the country looks to this army to relieve it from the devastation and disgrace of a hostile invasion." In ignorance of the exact condition of his own forces, as well as of the position of the enemy, he could only at the moment indicate a general purpose of at once moving in the direction of the Susquehanna, "keeping Washington and Baltimore well covered; and if the enemy is checked in his attempt to cross the Susquehanna, or if he turns towards Baltimore, to give him battle." Late in the evening of the same day he communicated to Halleck his intention of moving on the following day on three lines to Emmetsburg and Westminster. His headquarters at 4 P.M. on the 30th were at Taneytown, about eighteen miles in a southeasterly direction from Gettysburg, the left wing of his army, again under the command of Reynolds, in advance, in a northwesterly course from general headquarters, and considerably nearer to Gettysburg, whilst his right wing was to his east, two of its corps to the south, and the remaining two to the north of Pipe Creek,—his entire force consisting of seven *corps d'armée* of infantry and one of cavalry. Buford, with the First Division of the cavalry, was covering the left flank of the army, having been ordered for the purpose to move from Middletown by the way of Emmetsburg to Gettysburg, and, as appears from one authority, to hold Gettysburg "at all hazards until the army could support him."

The strategic value of Gettysburg had evidently neither been overlooked by Lee and some of his lieutenants, nor by some of the Union commanders, although Major Daniel, of Early's staff, believes that Lee himself had no idea of the great strategic importance of the place.<sup>2</sup> It

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<sup>1</sup> Conduct of the War, Part I., p. 294.

<sup>2</sup> Address of Major Daniel before the Virginia Division of the Army of Northern Virginia, October, 1875, p. 17.

certainly offered to Lee far greater advantages for concentrating his troops than Chambersburg, which, under the idea of a certain immunity from attack, he had first selected, as supposed by some, in pursuance of his defensive tactical policy. General Long, Lee's military secretary, reports the following as the substance of his chief's remarks when the subject of the Northern invasion was under consideration: "Should we defeat General Hooker in a general engagement south of the Potomac, anywhere in the vicinity of Washington, his shattered army would find refuge within the defenses of that city, as two Federal armies have previously done, and the fruits of victory would again be lost. But should we draw him far away from the defenses of his capital, and defeat him on a field of our own choosing, his army would be irretrievably lost, and the victory would be attended with results of the utmost importance. Gettysburg and York were designated as points suitable for such a battle."<sup>1</sup> Gettysburg was, moreover, a position of vast natural strength for defensive operations in the opinion of General Meade,<sup>2</sup> his assistant adjutant-general, General Williams,<sup>3</sup> of General Fitz-Hugh Lee,<sup>4</sup> and of many other officers both of experience and ability, whilst at the same time it afforded ready access not only to Chambersburg, but also to Hagerstown, Frederick, Taneytown, Baltimore, Hanover, York, Harrisburg, Carlisle, and Shippensburg, thus seeming to fulfill all the conditions which the Confederate chief needed for the realization of his general plan of campaign. Eleven roads, several of them well macadamized, centre at Gettysburg, so that by means of some one or more of them he might have maintained a direct communication with his base at Williamsport far more easily than from Chambersburg, whilst for defensive battle the line from and including Wolf Hill, situate to the southeast of the town, and separated from Culp's Hill by Rock Creek, thence pursuing a northerly direction across the depression made by the creek to and along the summit of Culp's Hill to its junction with Cemetery Hill, thence following the crest of the latter for a short distance in a westerly course, and from thence in a southerly direction, so as to embrace a part of Cemetery Ridge, and include Little Round Top as well as Round Top itself, is one rarely equaled and not often excelled. Hence it may readily be inferred that when, on the night of the 28th, Lee was first informed in regard to the position of the Federal army his whole plan of campaign was suddenly changed, and in the

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<sup>1</sup> Southern Historical Society Papers, vol. iv. p. 120.

<sup>2</sup> Conduct of the War, Part I., p. 438.

<sup>3</sup> Idem, Part I., p. 465.

<sup>4</sup> Southern Historical Society Papers, vol. iv. p. 73.



language of his final report "it was determined to concentrate the army east of the mountains, as" had been stated in his preliminary report, "our communications with the Potomac were thus menaced." . . . "Accordingly, Longstreet and Hill were directed to proceed from Chambersburg to Gettysburg, to which point General Ewell was also instructed to march from Carlisle." In mentioning the 28th as the date when Lee first obtained information in reference to the Union army, it is not to be lost sight of that in his first report he states that the intelligence was received from a scout "on the night of the 29th," and that in this Longstreet concurs,<sup>1</sup>—the latter adding that early on the morning of the succeeding day he had sought his chief for the purpose of suggesting, if necessary, whether this report ought not to produce a change of direction of the head of their column to the right. But Lee was in error as to its being the 29th, and in his final report he so admits by declaring that "the advance against Harrisburg was arrested by intelligence received from a scout on the night of the 28th," and in the same connection remarking that "Hill's corps was accordingly ordered to move towards Cashtown on the 29th, and Longstreet to follow the next day, leaving Pickett's division at Chambersburg to guard the rear until relieved by Imboden. General Ewell was recalled from Carlisle and directed to join the army at Cashtown or Gettysburg, as circumstances might require." And again, "Heth's division reached Cashtown on the 29th." As to the earlier date Lee is corroborated first by Heth, who says, "On the 29th of June, 1863, General Lee's army was disposed as follows: Longstreet's corps at or near Chambersburg; Ewell's corps, which had been pushed east as far as York, had received orders to countermarch and concentrate on Hill's corps, which lay on and at the base of South Mountain; the leading division (Heth's) occupying Cashtown, at the base of the mountain."<sup>2</sup> Secondly, by General Fitz-Hugh Lee, who, when mentioning in his "reply to General Longstreet" the date upon which the Federal army crossed the Potomac, is careful to add, "General Lee heard it on the night of the 28th from a scout, and not from his cavalry commander."<sup>3</sup> Thirdly, by General Wilcox;<sup>4</sup> and, fourthly, by General Early, who distinctly says that "Lee received information on the night of the 28th of June that the Federal army, then under Hooker, had crossed the Potomac;"<sup>5</sup> and more pointedly still in his supplement or further "reply to General

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<sup>1</sup> *Annals of the War*, p. 419.

<sup>2</sup> *Southern Historical Society Papers*, vol. iv. p. 157.

<sup>3</sup> *Idem*, vol. v. p. 166; see *idem*, vol. iv. p. 74.

<sup>4</sup> *Idem*, vol. iv. p. 112.

<sup>5</sup> *Idem*, vol. iv. p. 242, and also p. 288; Major Daniel's Address, p. 13.

Longstreet," in which he says that the statement of Longstreet, "that the information of the crossing of the Potomac by the Federal army was received from a scout on the night of the 29th of June, is erroneous. General Longstreet's own report, as well as General Lee's detailed one, show that the information was received on the night of the 28th. If it had not been received until the night of the 29th it would have been impossible for the order to return to reach me at York by the way of Carlisle in time for me to begin my march back early enough on the 30th to reach Gettysburg in time for the fight on the 1st of July. The fact was that I received the order on the morning of the 29th, at York, with the information that the enemy had crossed the Potomac and was moving north." Longstreet has rather recently admitted, in a second article on "The Mistakes of Gettysburg," that "there were two or three trifling inaccuracies in his first account of this battle which need correction," and in regard to the important date adds, "The scout upon whose information the head of our column was turned to the right reported at Chambersburg on the night of the 28th of June. It is printed the 29th."<sup>1</sup>

The suggestion on the part of Longstreet was received by Lee with a ready acquiescence, as at the time the Confederate army was well in hand, with the exception of Stuart's cavalry. A movement towards Meade's army was commenced immediately. Hill's corps, then lying between Chambersburg and Cashtown, west of the mountain, was advanced without delay; the divisions of McLaws and Hood, of Longstreet's corps, following, while the division of Pickett, of the latter corps, remained by order of Lee at Chambersburg as a rear-guard. Rodes and Johnson's divisions, of Ewell's corps, were recalled from Carlisle, and directed to unite with the remainder of the army at or near Cashtown, notwithstanding they had, according to Rodes, "contemplated with eagerness" an advance upon Harrisburg, which was to have been executed on the 30th. These last divisions bivouacked on the night of the 30th at Heidlersburg, a small village, distant some ten or twelve miles to the north and east of Gettysburg. Longstreet's two divisions were, however, only able to march as far as the village of Greenwood, ten miles east of Chambersburg, on the Cashtown Road, in consequence of the wagon-trains of Ewell and Hill's corps blocking the road, and there encamped on the 30th. Hill's corps, consisting of the divisions of Anderson, Heth, and Pender, and five battalions of artillery, was encamped on the morning of the 29th near Fayetteville,

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<sup>1</sup> *Annals of the War*, p. 632.

on the road from Chambersburg to Gettysburg. Hill had been directed to move on this road in the direction of York, to cross the Susquehanna, and thus threaten the communications of Harrisburg with Philadelphia, and further to co-operate with Ewell according to circumstances. In consequence, Heth's division was moved on the same day to Cashtown, the division of Pender following on the morning of the 30th, and Anderson ordered to march in the same direction on the morning of the 1st of July. On arriving at Cashtown, Heth sent forward Pettigrew's brigade to Gettysburg, which there encountered Buford's cavalry. Intelligence of this was at once dispatched by a courier to Lee, and Anderson directed to make an early start; Ewell at the same time was notified by Hill that he "intended to advance the next morning and discover what was in his front."<sup>1</sup> The statement published by Heth of the encounter with Buford's cavalry is interesting in this connection;<sup>2</sup> he says, "Hearing that a supply of shoes was to be obtained in Gettysburg," . . . "and greatly needing shoes for my men, I directed General Pettigrew to go to Gettysburg and get these supplies. General Pettigrew, on the 30th of June, with his brigade, went near Gettysburg, but did not enter the town, returning the same evening to Cashtown, reporting that he had not carried out my orders, as Gettysburg was occupied by the enemy's cavalry, and that some of his officers reported hearing drums beating on the farther side of the town; that under these circumstances he did not deem it advisable to enter Gettysburg. About this time General Hill rode up, and this information was given him. He remarked, 'The only force at Gettysburg is cavalry, probably a detachment of observation. I am just from General Lee, and the information he has from his scouts corroborates that I have received from mine,—that is, the enemy are still at Middleburg, and have not yet struck their tents.' I then said, 'If there is no objection, I will take my division to-morrow and go to Gettysburg and get those shoes!' Hill replied, 'None in the world.'" General Long (Lee's military secretary) states, however, that the first intelligence which his chief received of the movements of the enemy was his arrival at Emmetsburg, which is several miles northwest of Middleburg.<sup>3</sup> Such in brief was the general military situation of the Confederate forces on the night of the 30th of June, as has been gathered from the various official reports of their principal generals and from other sources. As has already been mentioned, Hill was aware on the 30th that Gettysburg was occupied

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<sup>1</sup> Southern Historical Society Papers, vol. ii. p. 222.

<sup>2</sup> *Idem*, vol. iv. p. 157.

<sup>3</sup> *Idem*, vol. iv. p. 122.

by a cavalry force of the Federal army, and had not only promptly reported the fact to his commander-in-chief, but had also notified Ewell, who had been recalled from Carlisle, of his intention to advance the next morning to ascertain what was in his front. The main, perhaps the only, object he had in view in thus communicating with Ewell, was to obtain the latter's assistance in his contemplated movement upon Gettysburg. In thus seeking to consolidate the strength of the two corps of the Confederate army at that point, it is not unreasonable to suppose that Hill anticipated something more than the resistance which a mere cavalry detachment was capable of offering, and that consequently he did not implicitly rely upon the reports of his scouts that the enemy were still stationed at Middleburg. But be this as it may, the purpose of Lee, as disclosed in his first report, was to concentrate his army east of the mountains at Gettysburg. His language is: "Accordingly, Longstreet and Hill were directed to proceed from Chambersburg to Gettysburg, to which point General Ewell was also instructed to march from Carlisle," and which seems to admit of no other interpretation. It is nevertheless true that in his detailed report of January, 1864, prepared six months after the battle, the order to Ewell is put quite differently, and that officer is there given the alternative of joining the army either at Cashtown or Gettysburg, as circumstances might require.<sup>1</sup> But, at all events, it can hardly be denied that concentration meant and could mean but one of three things, that is, either an offer of battle, or the acceptance of battle, or a retreat. In the opinion of General Alexander, the chief of artillery of Longstreet's corps, "the concentration which was ordered at Gettysburg was intended as an offer of battle."<sup>2</sup> General Early goes farther, and says expressly that when Meade moved his army near enough to Lee's to render concentration necessary, "the only alternative left the latter was a battle or a retreat."<sup>3</sup> General Fitz-Hugh Lee, in considering this subject, remarks, "The truth is, General Lee and his army were full of fight, their 'objective-point' was the Federal army of the Potomac, and 'those people' the Confederate chief had resolved to strike whenever and wherever the best opportunity occurred, 'strategically offensive and tactically defensive' to the contrary notwithstanding. An army of invasion is naturally an offensive one in strategy and tactics, and history rarely points to an instance where it has been concentrated on a given point to patiently await an attack. The distance from its base making supplies a difficult matter

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<sup>1</sup> Southern Historical Society Papers, vol. ii. p. 39.

<sup>2</sup> Idem, vol. iv. p. 99.

<sup>3</sup> Idem, vol. iv. p. 281, note.

to procure, in itself regulates the whole question. An army so situated must move or fight."<sup>1</sup> Heth fully concurs with Fitz-Hugh Lee as to the fighting qualities of their chief, saying that "Lee, not even excepting Jackson, was the most aggressive man in his army," and that "had he seen fit could have assumed a defensive position, and popular opinion in the Northern States would have forced the commander of the Federal army to attack."<sup>2</sup> Whilst Heth, as has already been mentioned, regards the battle of Gettysburg as "the result purely of an accident, for which he was probably more than any one else accountable," yet as he is sometimes in error upon important points, as, for example, in reporting a conversation of General Lee respecting the fight at Gettysburg on the third day, the general is made to say, "I shall ever believe if General Pender had remained on his horse half an hour longer we would have carried the enemy's position,"<sup>3</sup> whereas if General Lane, of North Carolina, is to be relied on,—“Pender was mortally wounded on the right of his line by an artillery shot on the afternoon of the 2d of July, and was taken to the rear, where he was on the 3d of July, and could not even mount his horse,”<sup>4</sup>—care must be exercised in accepting his narrative in all its particulars. Finally, in his detailed report, Lee admits that he was "unable to wait an attack," and that a battle had therefore become "in a measure unavoidable," although it had not been intended to deliver one "so far from his base unless attacked."

A careful comparison between the Union and Confederate accounts of some of the occurrences in the respective armies shortly prior to the night of the 30th of June will, as might be expected, disclose points of difference more or less material to be considered. Buford, as previously mentioned, had been directed to move with his division of cavalry from Middletown, by the way of Emmetsburg, to Gettysburg. In obedience to his order, but pursuing a more westerly course than the direct road between Middletown and Emmetsburg, he had reached Fountain Dale, a village on the South Mountain, a few miles northwest of Emmetsburg, on the night of the 29th, when from there observing the campfires of some of Heth's division near Fairfield in the valley below, got his men in the saddle early the next morning and surprised the Confederate detachment, which hastily fell back towards Cashtown. He declined, however, to press them, for the reason that the noise of the engagement might be heard at army headquarters, where "it might cause

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<sup>1</sup> Southern Historical Society Papers, vol. v. p. 178.

<sup>2</sup> Idem, vol. iv. p. 156.

<sup>3</sup> Idem, vol. iv. p. 154.

<sup>4</sup> Idem, vol. v. p. 387.

delay, uncertainty, and derangement of plans." There had also been a slight skirmish at Fairfield on the 28th between the Confederates and the Union cavalry,<sup>1</sup> information respecting both of which had no doubt been immediately reported to Lee at Chambersburg. After his dash Buford at once countermarched to Fountain Dale, and then resumed his way through Emmetsburg to Gettysburg, entering the latter town towards noon,<sup>2</sup> as, according to one version, two of Hill's brigades were about to occupy Seminary Ridge;<sup>3</sup> but according to another and probably the more accurate one,<sup>4</sup> about an hour after the Confederates had withdrawn to Marsh Creek in consequence of their learning of the near approach of the Federal cavalry. That afternoon Buford encamped on high ground, a mile and a half northwest from the town, between Seminary Ridge and Willoughby Run, and there placed his artillery in position; Gamble's brigade of his division going to the Chambersburg Pike, and Devin's brigade to the east, on the Mummasburg Road, covering the approaches from those directions. From prisoners captured by scouting parties sent from those brigades towards Cashtown and Hunterstown, as well as from other sources, it became evident that an almost immediate movement on the part of the Confederates towards Gettysburg was in contemplation. During the day Buford had informed General Reynolds that "the enemy in his front was increased," and on that night, between ten and eleven o'clock, he further notified the latter that he was "satisfied that A. P. Hill's corps" was "massed just back of Cashtown, about nine miles from this place. Pender's division of this corps came up to-day, of which I advised you." . . . "The enemy's pickets (infantry and artillery) are within four miles of this place, at the Cashtown Road." . . . "A captured scout says, 'Ewell's corps is crossing the mountains from Carlisle, Roach's division being at Petersburg, in advance. Longstreet, from all I can learn, is still behind Hill.'" . . . "Should I have to fall back, advise me by what route."<sup>5</sup> In reporting to General Halleck at Washington, between four and five o'clock in the afternoon of the 30th, General Meade states that "information seems to place Longstreet at Chambersburg, and A. P. Hill moving between Chambersburg and York," and that "our cavalry drove a regiment out of Gettysburg this A.M."<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Notes on the Rebel Invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania, etc., by Jacobs, p. 19.

<sup>2</sup> *Idem*, p. 22.

<sup>3</sup> The Decisive Conflicts of the late Civil War, by De Peyster, p. 27.

<sup>4</sup> Notes on the Rebel Invasion, by Jacobs, p. 22.

<sup>5</sup> Conduct of the War, Part I., p. 352.

<sup>6</sup> *Idem*, Part I., p. 483.

In his circular of June 30th to his corps commanders, General Meade announces that he "has received information that the enemy are advancing, probably in strong force, on Gettysburg." . . . "Three corps, First, Third, and Eleventh, are under the command of Major-General Reynolds in the vicinity of Emmetsburg, the Third Corps being ordered up to that point." And in his order, issued the same day, for the march of the army on the 1st of July, whilst directing the First Corps to move to Gettysburg, the Eleventh to Gettysburg (or supporting distance), and the Third to Emmetsburg, Meade repeats that "from present information Longstreet and Hill are at Chambersburg, partly towards Gettysburg; Ewell at Carlisle and York. Movements indicate a disposition to advance from Chambersburg to Gettysburg," and being satisfied that he has relieved Harrisburg and Philadelphia, he "desires to look to his own army and assume position for offensive or defensive as occasion requires."<sup>1</sup> In consequence of Buford's report from Gettysburg of "the appearance of the enemy on the Cashtown Road in some force, General Reynolds was directed to occupy Gettysburg,"<sup>2</sup> whither the enemy were moving, "and where it was not improbable they would reach before the command of Reynolds," . . . "then on its way, could arrive." General Reynolds had, moreover, been instructed, "in the event of finding himself confronted by a superior force," to hold it "in check, if he was able, and to fall slowly back."<sup>3</sup> On the judgment of no other officer did Meade rest greater dependence than on that of Reynolds; he was the officer upon whom he "had relied under his instructions."<sup>4</sup> Indeed, Reynolds was to him as he, affectionately as well as eloquently, expressed himself of his comrade, "not only a lieutenant of the utmost importance," but a friend, a brother, and "the noblest as well as the bravest gentleman in the army."<sup>5</sup> Amidst the confusion of the reports which crowded upon him respecting the position and the objects of the enemy, the commander-in-chief sought from this able lieutenant and trusted friend advice to determine whether it was "his best policy to move to attack," for as he states in his communication of the 1st of July to Reynolds, "If the enemy is concentrated to the right of Gettysburg, that point would not at first glance seem to be a proper strategic point of concentration for this army. If the enemy is concentrating in front of Gettysburg or to the left of it, the general is

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<sup>1</sup> Conduct of the War, Part I., p. 421.

<sup>2</sup> Meade's official report, Battle of Gettysburg, by Bates, p. 237.

<sup>3</sup> Conduct of the War, Part I., p. 356.

<sup>4</sup> Idem, Part I., p. 348.

<sup>5</sup> Meade's address to the Pennsylvania Reserves, History of the Pennsylvania Reserves, by Sypher, p. 493.

not sufficiently well informed of the nature of the country to judge of its character either for an offensive or defensive position." . . . "The general having just assumed command in obedience to orders," . . . "would gladly receive from you any suggestions as to the points laid down in this note. He feels that you know more of the condition of the troops in your vicinity and the country than he does." . . . "You have all the information which the general has received, and the general would like to have your views. The movement of your corps to Gettysburg was ordered before the positive knowledge of the enemy's withdrawal from Harrisburg and concentration was received."<sup>1</sup>

On his route to Gettysburg Reynolds had on the afternoon of the 30th encamped in the vicinity of a tavern near Marsh Creek, about five miles south and west of the town. At the same time the Eleventh Corps was to the left of Emmetsburg, and the Third between that place and Taneytown. At night, General Howard, the commander of the Eleventh Corps, was requested to report at Reynolds's headquarters, where immediately on his arrival Reynolds showed him Meade's "Confidential address, just issued, in which he required the officers in command fitly to address the troops," and to appeal "to every patriotic sentiment to stimulate his command on the approach of a great battle." He also showed him "in a bundle of dispatches—the information brought to him during the day—evidence of the nearness, position, and designs of the enemy. He sat down with" Howard "to study the maps of the country, and consulted" with him "upon these matters till eleven o'clock at night, the last night of his life."<sup>2</sup> The notice of this interesting interview is altogether too slight and incomplete on the part of General Howard, for it is highly important to be able to determine what bearing it had on the operations of the succeeding day. A protracted discussion of the probable designs of the enemy from the evidence before them must have led to some conclusion, for so accomplished a soldier as Reynolds was evidently during that night's study and conference considering the possibilities of the morrow, and most probably was preparing himself to carry into successful execution the discretionary powers with which he had been invested by his commander-in-chief. He had been made aware by Buford that the enemy had increased in numbers; that Hill's corps was massed immediately behind Cashtown; that Ewell was crossing the mountains from Carlisle, and that their

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<sup>1</sup> *Conduct of the War, Part I., p. 355.*

<sup>2</sup> *Campaign and Battle of Gettysburg, by O. O. Howard, Atlantic Monthly, July, 1876, p. 52.*



infantry and artillery pickets were within four miles of Gettysburg. His views besides had been freely expressed, and it was known that he favored offering the enemy battle at the earliest suitable moment. General Doubleday mentions a conversation on this subject with Reynolds, which took place just after the Union army had crossed the Potomac, in which the latter urged as a reason that if we gave the enemy "time by dilatory measures or by taking up defensive positions they would strip" Pennsylvania "of everything. Hence he was in favor of striking them as soon as possible. He was really eager to get at them."<sup>1</sup> On the same night, close by Gettysburg, Buford was also considering with one of his brigade commanders the chances of the next day; his opinion was clear that the battle would be fought at that point, but he was apprehensive that "it would be commenced in the morning before the infantry would get up. These," adds the officer who made the statement, "are his own words."<sup>2</sup> Buford further remarked that "the enemy must know the importance of this position, and will strain every nerve to secure it, and if we are able to hold it we will do well." Reynolds was perfectly well aware that the enemy was concentrating to the left of Gettysburg, and that a collision was imminent; his corps had been ordered to occupy the town which Buford had been instructed to hold, and beyond doubt, in answer to the inquiry of the latter by what route, in case of necessity, he should fall back, he readily promised prompt support so that he might strike the enemy without delay.

There were encamped on the night of the 30th within a radius of eight miles from Gettysburg four of the nine divisions of the Confederate army, numbering with the cavalry and artillery not less than thirty-five thousand men, and one corps of the left wing of the Federal army, besides two of the three brigades of Buford's division of cavalry (the other brigade being at Mechanicstown with the trains), aggregating about ten thousand four hundred; most of the remaining corps of the Union army being at a greater distance, namely, two near Emmetsburg, one at Taneytown, one at Hanover, and one at Manchester. As to the estimate here made of the opposing forces in close proximity to Gettysburg at this time, it seems scarcely necessary to remark that writers on both sides have given not only the actual but the relative numbers widely different from those now presented. In his letter on the relative strength of the two armies, Early insists that as there

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<sup>1</sup> Battle of Gettysburg, by Bates, p. 84, and Conduct of the War, Part I., p. 305.

<sup>2</sup> Statement of Buford's signal-officer, De Peyster, p. 151.

were no regular monthly returns for June, 1863, on account of Lee's army being engaged on the 1st, 2d, and 3d of July at Gettysburg, the estimates made of the Confederate force at the commencement of the battle are unreliable.<sup>1</sup> Lee's military secretary says, "Shortly after the battle of Chancellorsville the Army of Northern Virginia had, by the return of absentees and the divisions of Longstreet, been increased to sixty-five thousand men."<sup>2</sup> The statement made by Colonel Allan is that "frequently the Confederate reports included more than the effective fighting men. Thus Rodes's 'return' at Carlisle, a few days before Gettysburg, makes his total strength of officers and enlisted men 'eight thousand and fifty-two.' Now Rodes had about six thousand muskets, or less than seven thousand effectives."<sup>3</sup> Heth says his division "numbered some seven thousand muskets."<sup>4</sup> Hooker testified before the Committee on the Conduct of the War that "with regard to the enemy's force I had reliable information. Two Union men had counted them as they passed through Hagerstown, and in order that there might be no mistake they compared notes every night, and if their counts differed they were satisfactorily adjusted by compromise. In round numbers Lee had ninety-one thousand infantry and two hundred and eighty pieces of artillery; marching with that column were about six thousand cavalry. It will be remembered that a portion of the enemy's cavalry crossed the Potomac below Edwards's Ferry, and went into Maryland to join Ewell, between me and Washington; this column numbered about five thousand men."<sup>5</sup> The Comte de Paris in giving his conclusions as to the numerical strength of both armies at Gettysburg expresses himself thus: "I reckon, therefore, the whole strength of the Army of Northern Virginia in Pennsylvania at about seventy-six thousand present, out of which at least sixty-six thousand were present for duty, and two hundred and sixty-eight guns."<sup>6</sup> Colonel Taylor, of Lee's staff, in reply to the count, admits that "the three arms of service then numbered as follows: infantry, fifty-three thousand five hundred; cavalry, nine thousand; artillery, four thousand five hundred. Total effectives of all arms, sixty-seven thousand."<sup>7</sup> So that the estimate of the Confederate force encamped within a radius of eight miles from Gettysburg at not less than thirty-five thousand, on the night of the 30th, may be regarded as being substantially correct.

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<sup>1</sup> Southern Historical Society Papers, vol. ii. p. 17.

<sup>2</sup> Idem, vol. iv. p. 119.

<sup>3</sup> Idem, vol. iv. p. 39.

<sup>4</sup> Idem, vol. iv. p. 158.

<sup>5</sup> Conduct of the War, Part I., p. 173.

<sup>6</sup> Southern Historical Society Papers, vol. v. p. 205.

<sup>7</sup> Idem, vol. v. p. 245.

The duration of the action which was ushered in on the morning of the 1st of July—an action of such momentous consequences to civil liberty, and in some aspects the most important of the series of the conflicts comprehended under the general designation of the battle of Gettysburg—was altogether less than seven hours, during the greater part of which time the struggle was waged on both sides with unusual tenacity and severity. From a military point of view the operations of that day may be divided into four parts,—first, the engagement between Heth and Buford; second, that between the divisions of Heth and Pender on the one side and the First Corps on the other; third, that between the divisions of Heth, Pender, Rodes, and Early and the First and Eleventh Corps; and, fourth, from the repulse of the Federal forces to their occupation of Cemetery Hill.

With the dawn of Wednesday, July the 1st, or even later,<sup>1</sup> Heth and Pender advanced with their divisions from Cashtown to attack the Federal force in their front; at about the same time the divisions of Rodes and Early started from Heidlersburg, where they had encamped the night before, for Cashtown. Two divisions of Longstreet's corps, near Chambersburg, followed after Hill. Pickett in obedience to an order remained at Chambersburg as a rear-guard. Longstreet's two divisions did not arrive on the field during the first day's battle, whilst the remaining divisions of Anderson and Johnson, of the other two corps, reached it when the action was over. Some of the Confederate cavalry were observed at an early hour reconnoitring Buford's force from the Chambersburg Pike, and towards nine o'clock Heth's division of Hill's corps, consisting of four brigades of infantry and five batteries of artillery,<sup>2</sup> reached the ridge just west of Willoughby Run, a mile or more from Gettysburg. Several of these batteries were at once placed in position near the turnpike, Marye firing the opening gun in shelling the woods in his front. Two brigades of infantry were then deployed to the right and left of the unfinished railroad, part of which was embankment and part deep cut, immediately north of the turnpike, and with this railroad for their line of direction were afterwards ordered to advance and occupy the town. Between half after nine and ten o'clock<sup>3</sup> skirmishing commenced,—the first discharge,—a musket-shot, having been fired against some of Gamble's brigade, of Buford's dismounted cavalry. Such was the commencement of the great conflict

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<sup>1</sup> Southern Historical Society Papers, vol. ii. p. 223, and vol. iv. p. 113.

<sup>2</sup> Idem, Confederate Roster, vol. iii. p. 119; vol. v. p. 196, and vol. ii. p. 223.

<sup>3</sup> Rebel Invasion, etc., by Jacobs, p. 23, and De Peyster, p. 34.

which the troops on both sides had been eager to wage. Almost at once the artillery fire was replied to by Buford's light batteries, one of which was admirably directed by Lieutenant Calif, and the engagement became quite severe. When Buford's men were nearly overpowered, the signal-officer observed from the seminary steeple, in sweeping his glass over the field, the flag of the First Corps, and upon reporting the fact, Buford exclaimed, "Now we can hold the place!"

Leaving his camp near Marsh Creek, some five miles distant from Gettysburg, in a southwesterly direction, early on the same morning, Reynolds hastened along the Emmetsburg Road with Wadsworth's division, of the First Corps, and Hall's battery, directing General Doubleday to bring up the other divisions and the remaining batteries, except the First Brigade, of the Third Division, which had been detailed for picket duty, on the previous afternoon, from Marsh Creek in a westerly direction to Middle Creek, and Cooper's battery of four pieces, which brigade and battery followed independently, under my command, from the cross-roads at Ross White's along a road between the Emmetsburg and Hagerstown Roads, commonly known as the Gettysburg and Nunemaker's Mill Road. Before starting to Buford's assistance Reynolds read to Doubleday his telegrams showing the position of the Federal troops and what they were doing.<sup>1</sup> From various casualties the total effective strength of the First Corps had at the end of June shrunk to a number not exceeding eight thousand two hundred. Reynolds, from recent information, had most probably anticipated an early collision, and being thoroughly self-reliant as well as full of dash, did not in the emergency await additional instructions. Usually riding some distance beyond his corps, he was on this day with his staff considerably in advance of the troops. Whilst thus reconnoitring the different positions which might soon become the theatre of a conflict, a dispatch from Buford was handed to him, when less than three miles from the town, announcing that the enemy were then sorely pressing the cavalry. On the instant Reynolds sent an aide to Wadsworth with a characteristic order "to close up and come on," and dispatched other staff-officers to Howard and Sickles, who were then not far from Emmetsburg, to hasten the movements of the former and to direct the latter to advance without delay. A few minutes later Reynolds, on meeting and inquiring of Buford if he "could hold out until his corps came up?" received from him a brief assurance in the words "I reckon I can."<sup>2</sup> Hall gives a different account of the interview between Rey-

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<sup>1</sup> Conduct of the War, Part I., p. 305.

<sup>2</sup> Statement of Buford's signal-officer, De Peyster, 153.

nolds and Buford, as follows: "Reynolds and staff were dismounted and sitting near my guns before we hitched up for marching, when Buford, with a small escort of cavalry, came along, and I heard Buford say to Reynolds, 'I have run upon a couple of regiments of infantry near Gettysburg, which, owing to their being in the woods, I am unable to dislodge, and I think you had better move up and feel them.' Reynolds, in my hearing, dictated a message to Meade something like this: 'Buford just now reports that he finds a small force of the enemy's infantry in a point of woods near Gettysburg, which he is unable to dislodge; and while I am aware that it is not your desire to force an engagement at that point, still, from the scope of instructions I have all the time had from you since commanding this wing of the army, I feel at liberty to advance to Gettysburg and develop the strength of the enemy at that point.'"<sup>1</sup>

Howard had been ordered by Reynolds, early on the morning of the 1st of July, to advance from Emmetsburg with the Eleventh Corps. This order was received at 8.30 A.M., and having been expected in consequence of Meade's order of march for the 1st of July, Howard at once commenced to move in two columns; Barlow's division, with a battery, being put on the direct road to Gettysburg, and the other two divisions, with the remaining four batteries, on a road leading across to the Taneytown Road, and thence by that road to the town. The direct road being obstructed by artillery carriages and trains, Howard supposed that Barlow's division would not reach Gettysburg until shortly after 1 P.M., and that the other divisions would be there about the same hour. As soon as the columns were started Howard, accompanied by his staff, taking the shortest route, and riding rapidly, occasionally in the woods and fields, reached, as he states, the vicinity of Gettysburg about 10.30 A.M.,<sup>2</sup> but as to this being the hour of his arrival he is most probably in error, for the evidence on the subject almost certainly fixes it from a half to three-quarters of an hour earlier. Indeed, he himself admits noticing variations in the time that "different officers have recorded the same event," of from a half to three-quarters of an hour from that of his own watch. His chief of artillery, moreover, remarks in his narrative that "at 10 A.M. General Howard received notice from General Reynolds that he had engaged the enemy, and was met by largely superior numbers, and urged General Howard to hurry his corps for-

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<sup>1</sup> Brookline Chronicle, February 16, 1878.

<sup>2</sup> Campaign of Gettysburg, by O. O. Howard, Atlantic Monthly, July, 1876, p. 53.

ward as rapidly as possible." . . . "I was with General Howard when he received this notice from General Reynolds, but the batteries were back." . . . "General Howard directing me to bring the batteries forward as rapidly as possible rode to the front."<sup>1</sup> Before this, however, when near Gettysburg, one of General Howard's aides reported to Reynolds the expected early arrival of the Eleventh Corps, upon which, and before leaving for the front, Reynolds desired the aide to return to his commanding officer "with orders to move on rapidly to Cemetery Hill, where he would be put in position."<sup>2</sup> After Reynolds had reached Seminary Ridge and observed the critical situation of his troops, he sent word to Howard to urge his corps forward, which was the message referred to by Howard as well as by his chief of artillery. Subsequently to the receipt of the order to hasten forward his corps Howard entered the town, and from Fahnestock's observatory had a partial view of what was passing on the field to the north and west in the distance. He there got glimpses, as he says, of Wadsworth's division of infantry fighting near the railroad cut at Seminary Ridge. "Success," he adds, "was then attending him, and prisoners in gray were being conducted into the town." A few minutes later (by his watch about 11.30 A.M.) intelligence was received by him of the death of Reynolds, and that the command of the troops had, in consequence, devolved upon him. As he had previously sent the earnest request from Reynolds back to the columns of Schurz and Barlow, he then, with a full knowledge of what was transpiring and what had transpired at the front, "rode slowly" to the rear, near the cemetery gate, where he soon met Schurz, who had hastened on to see him.<sup>3</sup>

The area of the field upon which the most important operations of the 1st of July took place scarcely exceeds two square miles. This small parallelogram embraces part of Willoughby Run, which flows in a southerly course, of a ridge between Seminary Ridge and the run, of Seminary Ridge, as well as parts of the Hagerstown, Chambersburg, and Mummasburg Roads, all converging to the town. The two ridges extend nearly north and south. The Hagerstown Road runs in a west-southwesterly direction from Gettysburg, the Chambersburg Pike a little north of west-northwest, and the Mummasburg Road about northwest. The line of the First Corps, extending on its left to near the

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<sup>1</sup> Philadelphia Weekly Times, May 31, 1879.

<sup>2</sup> Battle of Gettysburg, by Bates, p. 68.

<sup>3</sup> Campaign of Gettysburg, by O. O. Howard, Atlantic Monthly, July, 1876, p. 54.

Hagerstown Road and on its right to the Mummasburg Road, did not greatly, if at all, exceed a mile and a half in length.

Leaving the Emmetsburg Road not far from Codori's house, near the town, and dashing across the fields to the west at a double-quick, Cutler's brigade (with the exception of the Seventh Indiana, which had been detached for special duty), of Wadsworth's division, reached the crest of Seminary Ridge just as Buford's men were beginning to yield to the severe pressure of the enemy. Buford had, however, faithfully discharged his whole duty in the face of heavy odds. He had tenaciously kept his position, and thus rendered it possible for the Union, in its hour of peril, to find its deliverance through the Army of the Potomac. To the boldness, persistence, and gallantry of John Buford, on this and other fields, his country owes his memory a vast debt of gratitude. Hardly had the first regiment of Cutler's brigade arrived on the ground, and taken position to the right of the Chambersburg Pike, before the Confederates advanced in strong force along and upon both sides of that road, and became engaged with the Federal line. The last instructions which General Doubleday had from Reynolds in reference to the battle were, "I will hold on to this road," the Chambersburg Pike, "and you hold on to the other," or the Mummasburg Road.<sup>1</sup> In defending this main highway, leading from Chambersburg to Baltimore through Gettysburg, Reynolds directed the troops of Meredith's brigade, of the First Division, which immediately reached the ridge after Cutler, as they were deploying to the left of the pike, to hurry forward to the parallel ridge in front, and there attack the enemy as they came up its western slope. Meredith's regiments, rapidly forming line of battle as they came successively on the ground, charged the enemy, and drove them precipitately down the slope, back to and across Willoughby Run. Reynolds, who, with the instinct of a soldier, had from the first grasped the important features of the entire field, and who by his prompt and resolute course of action had fixed the site for the greater battle yet to be fought, observed whilst near these troops an advance to the left of a portion of the enemy through the wood: one of Meredith's regiments, the Nineteenth Indiana, just then appearing, he ordered it to charge,—leading the charge in person.<sup>2</sup> Almost immediately after, and shortly before 11 A.M., a minié-ball, from one of Archer's sharpshooters, entering the back of his neck as he turned to look in the direction of the seminary, caused him to fall from his horse apparently lifeless. Pollard, in his "Southern History of the War," gives an altogether different

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<sup>1</sup> Conduct of the War, Part I., p. 306.

<sup>2</sup> De Peyster, p. 37.

version of the occurrence, stating that "the Confederates, distinguishing him from his uniform to be an officer of high rank, opened upon him with heavy volleys of infantry fire. He was struck by several balls, and died instantly without uttering a word."<sup>1</sup> In the vigor of his manhood, and in the fullness of a well-earned military fame, perished this hero upon a field which his genius had fixed for the determination of one of the great and decisive conflicts of the world. "Yet," in the language of another, "where could man meet better the inevitable hour than in defense of his native State, his life-blood mingling with the soil on which he first drew breath?"<sup>2</sup>

The Twenty-fourth Michigan and the Nineteenth Indiana, two regiments of Meredith's brigade, pursuing the enemy across the run, enfiladed Archer's brigade, and succeeded in capturing Archer, together with the greater part of his troops. Cutler's brigade, which had gone to the right of the Chambersburg Pike, and which was extended in prolongation of the line of Meredith's brigade, became engaged with the enemy a little earlier, the opening infantry fire on the Federal side having come from the Fifty-Sixth Pennsylvania Regiment of Volunteers. This brigade, however, meeting with a force greatly superior to its own numerically, had been compelled to fall back at first on the right, and then along its whole line to a position nearly perpendicular to the one which it had originally assumed, thus not only exposing itself greatly, but also the right flank and rear of the other brigade. The Sixth Wisconsin, Meredith's brigade, which had been held in reserve at the time of the charge against Archer's troops, was at once sent to the assistance of Cutler. Promptly changing front to the north, it, together with the Ninety-Fifth New York and the Fourteenth Brooklyn, of Cutler's brigade, impetuously charged the advancing and victorious line of Davis's Mississippi brigade, forced it back at the point of the bayonet to the railroad cut, and there, after a short but sharp resistance, captured the Second Mississippi Regiment, and portions of the Forty-Second Mississippi and another regiment of the same brigade. This brilliant achievement on the part of the Union arms held the enemy in check for a time. Shortly before 11 A.M. Doubleday's division arrived on the ground, and a little after Robinson's division, of the First Corps,—Robinson's division being at first "kept in reserve behind the seminary;"<sup>3</sup> Baxter's, one of its two brigades, going into

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<sup>1</sup> Southern History of the War, Third Year, by Pollard, p. 24.

<sup>2</sup> Oration on General Meade and the battle of Gettysburg before the Society of the Army of the Potomac, May, 1873, p. 13.

<sup>3</sup> Conduct of the War, Part I., p. 307.



position later on Seminary Ridge to the right of the Chambersburg Pike, north of the railroad cut, and extending as far as the Mummasburg Road,—the Eleventh Pennsylvania forming on the immediate right of Cutler; the Ninety-Seventh New York, the Eighty-Third New York, the Eighty-Eighth Pennsylvania, and the Twelfth Massachusetts successively to the right, all facing west, and the Ninetieth Pennsylvania, the extreme right of the line, being refused, facing to the north, and stretching along the Mummasburg Road. Towards half after twelve o'clock a general firing was renewed, and some of the enemy advancing against Baxter were driven back by a portion of his brigade, including the Eleventh Pennsylvania, in the face of a heavy fire, across an open field, with the loss, notwithstanding repeated reinforcements, of about five hundred prisoners from Iverson's North Carolina brigade, of Rodes's division, of Ewell's corps, the Eighty-Eighth Pennsylvania capturing the colors of the Twenty-Third North Carolina Regiment. General Rodes, describing in his report this part of his engagement, says, "Iverson's left being exposed thus, heavy loss was inflicted upon his brigade. His men fought and died like heroes. His dead lay in a distinctly-marked line of battle. His left was overpowered, and many of his men being surrounded were captured."<sup>1</sup> Pollard states that Rodes, in "riding along behind where their line had been, thought he observed a regiment lying down as if to escape the Yankee fire. On going up, however, to force them into the fight he found they were all corpses."<sup>2</sup> A heavy skirmish line of the enemy then appearing, supported by lines of battle, caused the Federal brigade, its ammunition being nearly exhausted, to fall back to its original position. Paul's, the other brigade of the division, was moved from the rear of the seminary, where it had been massed, across the railroad cut towards 2 P.M., the troops loading as they advanced, and when they had reached the foot of the ridge pushed up the next slope at the double-quick, encountering at the summit of that ridge the first line of the enemy, who at once threw down their arms and surrendered. But the second line coming up quickly to the support of the first, and reinforcements being also steadily poured in, caused a desperate struggle to ensue, in which the slaughter was not only terrible, but the Union forces, suffering severely, were driven back. Paul's brigade consisted of the Sixteenth Maine, the Thirteenth Massachusetts, the Ninety-Fourth New York, the One Hundred and Fourth New York, and the One Hundred and Seventh Pennsylvania Volunteers.

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<sup>1</sup> Southern Historical Society Papers, vol. ii. p. 147.

<sup>2</sup> Southern History of the War, Third Year, by Pollard, p. 25.

Stone's brigade, of Doubleday's division, composed of three Pennsylvania regiments, namely, the One Hundred and Forty-Third, the One Hundred and Forty-Ninth, and the One Hundred and Fiftieth, after it came upon the field took position at a little before noon on the ridge immediately beyond Seminary Ridge, under a heavy fire, with the right resting on the Chambersburg Pike, and the left almost reaching the wood occupied by Meredith's brigade,—its skirmishers thrown forward down the next slope, the pike being held by a number of sharpshooters. This disposition continued unchanged until between twelve and one o'clock, when an enfilading fire from a Confederate battery compelled its right regiment (the One Hundred and Forty-Third) to fall back to Seminary Ridge. Immediately the One Hundred and Forty-Ninth was faced to the north, and thrown out on the pike, and between half after one and two o'clock, as the enemy's infantry moved forward in force, the One Hundred and Forty-Third was ordered to take position on the pike to the right of the former regiment, thus displaying these two regiments at right angles with the One Hundred and Fiftieth, which remained to the right of and near Meredith's brigade, facing west. It was to one of the officers of the One Hundred and Fiftieth Pennsylvania Volunteers that John Burns, of Gettysburg, then an old man of seventy years of age, first applied for permission to fight with the Union troops, and obtaining that permission, fought chiefly with the Seventh Wisconsin until the Federal forces were driven back in the afternoon. As he was falling back with the rest, having already received three wounds, one of them through the arm, a final wound in the leg disabled him. Helpless, and almost bleeding to death, he lay upon the field until early the next morning, when his wounds were dressed by a Confederate surgeon. His heroic conduct met with a suitable recognition both by the United States Congress and the Legislature of Pennsylvania, and the pensions which his valor won him he lived to enjoy until the month of February, 1872. An instance of the bravery of an Emmetsburg lad, akin to that of Burns, is recorded by one of the soldiers of the Twelfth Massachusetts Volunteers. As Baxter's brigade was marching through Emmetsburg it was followed by the village boys, one of whom continued to the camp at Marsh Creek, where he offered to enlist. His offer, however, was ridiculed, and he was sent away. On the morning of the 1st of July he reappeared, and so earnestly entreated the colonel of the Twelfth Massachusetts to be allowed to join his regiment, that a captain of one of the companies was instructed to take him on trial for a day or two. When the regiment halted near the seminary, the boy was hastily dressed in a suit of

blue. Afterwards, during the action, he fought bravely until a bullet striking his musket split it in two pieces, one of which lodged in his hand and the other in his thigh. The unknown boy was taken to the brick church in the town to be cared for, but nothing was afterwards seen or heard of him.<sup>1</sup> As the enemy pressed forward to attack, the One Hundred and Forty-Third and the One Hundred and Forty-Ninth Pennsylvania Volunteers, on the pike, were sent to occupy the railroad cut, about one hundred yards distant to the north. The advance of the enemy from the north having, after a spirited contest, been repulsed, the attack was resumed in force from the west, which was also successfully resisted,—a vigorous bayonet charge driving them back. After retreating a short distance, however, they moved by their right flank and occupied, towards a quarter to three P.M., a wood in front of Meredith's brigade. Not long after three o'clock, Meredith's troops having retired to the crest of the next ridge, the brigade, then under the command of Colonel Langhorne Wister, in danger of being surrounded, gradually fell back to Seminary Ridge, where a new position was taken, and for a time stubbornly maintained. But finally being outflanked by vastly superior numbers, it fell back through the town to Cemetery Hill, where it was reformed, and rested in line during the night.

The First Brigade, of Doubleday's division, was under my command, and consisted of the One Hundred and Twenty-First, One Hundred and Forty-Second, and One Hundred and Fifty-First Regiments of Pennsylvania Volunteers, and the Twentieth New York State Militia. Cooper's Battery B, First Pennsylvania Artillery, had on the morning of the 1st of July been attached to the brigade. On that morning, as soon as the pickets of the One Hundred and Twenty-First could be withdrawn, the infantry and artillery were marched from the cross-roads at Ross White's, which lie between Marsh and Middle Creeks, along the Nunemaker Mill Road to Gettysburg, a distance of about seven miles.

When within a mile of the town the sound of heavy firing to the northwest indicated that a sharp engagement was already in progress. The brigade was in consequence rapidly pushed across the fields to open ground, a short distance north of the Hagerstown Road, and about a third of a mile west of the seminary, and there formed, a little before 11 A.M., on the extreme left of the general line of battle. The battery was immediately placed in position, and its fire directed towards the

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<sup>1</sup> Brookline Chronicle, February 16, 1878.

northwest, to the left of the woods in which the First Division was then engaged. Upwards of three-quarters of a mile in front were woods nearly parallel with the line of battle and between, somewhat to the left, a house and large stone barn, the latter of which was afterwards used as a cover for the enemy's sharpshooters. To protect the battery from the annoyance which the sharpshooters occasioned a company of skirmishers was sent from the Twentieth New York, who, readily driving the men off, occupied their shelter. Later in the day, towards 3 P.M., Pettigrew's brigade of North Carolina troops, Heth's division, Hill's corps, advancing in two lines and in perfect order, commenced a vigorous attack on the extreme left of the Federal line held by the First Brigade. Of the four small regiments composing the latter brigade, one—the One Hundred and Fifty-First—had been detached about half after two o'clock to be held in reserve, and was posted near the seminary grove until it was subsequently sent forward to occupy the gap between Meredith's and my brigade. Notwithstanding the great disparity in numbers between the contending forces, and that the left of the Federal line was greatly outflanked, the position was maintained with spirit for a considerable time under a severe direct and oblique fire, and until, being without support, the fragments of the four regiments were compelled to retire—towards 4 P.M.—to a partial cover on the edge of the town, close to and west of the seminary, where they continued to resist the progress of the enemy until the batteries and most of the Union troops had withdrawn to Cemetery Hill; then, as the enemy were swarming in on the left, they fell back to the same point, reforming in the rear of its crest. The admirable behavior of the men and officers of the brigade may to some extent be inferred from the fact that out of twelve hundred and eighty-seven officers and men who went into action as the First Brigade of the Third Division, of the First Corps, four hundred and forty were either killed or wounded and four hundred and fifty-seven missing, leaving as its effective strength at the close of the first day's battle three hundred and ninety officers and men.

The various official reports and unofficial published statements of prominent Confederate generals respecting the occurrences on the first day between the contending forces of the corps of Reynolds and Hill are in many respects so essentially different from that which has been here detailed, that it seems but proper to present the material portions of those statements, without, however, undertaking to reconcile the many points of difference between the two accounts. General Hill

reports officially<sup>1</sup> that "about three miles from Gettysburg his advance brigade, Archer's, encountered the advance of the enemy. Archer and Davis were thrown into line, and with some pieces of artillery from Pegram, the enemy were steadily driven back to the wooded hills this side of Gettysburg, where their principal force (since ascertained to be the First and Eleventh Corps) was disposed to dispute our farther advance. Heth's whole division was now thrown into line; Davis on the left of the road; Archer, Pettigrew, and Brokenbrough on the right, and Pender formed in his rear; Thomas on the left, and Lane, Scales, and Perrin on the right. Pegram's and McIntosh's battalions of artillery were put in position on the crest of a hill overlooking the town of Gettysburg. Heth's division drove the enemy, encountering a determined resistance. About half-past two o'clock the right wing of Ewell's corps made its appearance on my left, and thus formed a right angle with my line. Pender's division was then ordered forward, Thomas's brigade being retained in reserve, and the rout of the enemy was complete, Perrin's brigade taking position after position of the enemy and driving him through the town of Gettysburg. The want of cavalry had been and was again seriously felt. Under the impression that the enemy were entirely routed,—my own two divisions exhausted by some six hours' hard fighting,—prudence led me to be content with what had been gained, and not push forward troops exhausted and necessarily disordered, probably to encounter fresh troops of the enemy." . . . "Brigadier-General Archer was taken prisoner by the enemy." . . . "Pettigrew's brigade, under its gallant leader, fought most admirably and sustained heavy loss." Three things in this report will not escape observation. First, that the Federal forces offered a "determined resistance;" second, that the want of cavalry "was again seriously felt;" and, third, that no mention is made either of the capture of Archer's or of the larger part of Davis's brigades. In connection with the first point, it may be well to consider the comparatively recent account of General Heth, in which, after mentioning that upon his first advance, meeting with no opposition, when within a mile or so of the town two of his brigades (Archer's and Davis's) were then deployed to the right and left of the railroad leading into Gettysburg, and with the railroad as a point of direction were ordered to advance and occupy Gettysburg. "These brigades on moving forward soon struck the enemy, which proved to be Reynolds's corps of the Federal army, and were driven back with some loss." . . . "My division was then formed

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<sup>1</sup> Southern Historical Society Papers, vol. ii. p. 223.

in a wooded ravine to the right of the railroad, the ground rising in front and rear. The enemy was evidently in force in my front. General Rodes, commanding a division of Ewell's corps, *en route* to Cashtown, was following a road running north of Gettysburg. Rodes hearing the firing at Gettysburg, faced by the left flank and approached the town. He soon became heavily engaged, and seeing this I sought for and found General Lee, saying to the general, 'Rodes is very heavily engaged; had I not better attack?' General Lee replied, 'No; I am not prepared to bring on a general engagement to-day; Longstreet is not up.' Returning to my division, I soon discovered that the enemy were moving troops from my front and pushing them against Rodes. I reported this fact to General Lee, and again requested to be permitted to attack. Permission was given. My division numbered some seven thousand muskets. I found in my front a heavy skirmish line and two lines of battle. My division swept over these without halting. My loss was severe. In twenty-five minutes I lost two thousand seven hundred men killed and wounded." Certainly no idea of a "determined resistance," such as is spoken of by Hill, is conveyed by the language of Heth; in fact, the reverse is fairly inferrible from it, and yet Hill's version is altogether the more likely to be accurate, as it is not only confirmed by the testimony of Federal officers, but, moreover, appears to be corroborated by the fact mentioned by Heth himself, that he lost two thousand seven hundred men killed and wounded, out of a division of seven thousand, in twenty-five minutes; a loss of over one-third in so short a space of time is quite calculated to check the ardor of even the most dashing troops. And lastly, General Lee, in his final report on the campaign in Pennsylvania, puts it thus: General Heth, when within a mile of the town, sent two brigades forward to reconnoitre. "They drove in the advance of the enemy very gallantly, but subsequently encountered largely superior numbers, and were compelled to retire with loss, Brigadier-General Archer, commanding one of the brigades, being taken prisoner. General Heth then prepared for action, and as soon as Pender arrived to support him, was ordered by General Hill to advance. The artillery was placed in position, and the engagement opened with vigor. General Heth pressed the enemy steadily back, breaking his first and second lines and attacking his third with great resolution. About 2½ P.M. the advance of Ewell's corps, consisting of Rodes's division, with Carter's battalion of artillery, arrived by the Middletown Road, and forming on Heth's left, nearly at right angles with his line, became warmly engaged with fresh numbers of the enemy. Heth's troops having suffered heavily in their pro-

tracted contest with a superior force, were relieved by Pender's, and Early coming up by the Heidlersburg Road soon afterwards, took position on the left of Rodes, when a general advance was made. The enemy gave way on all sides, and were driven through Gettysburg with great loss. Major-General Reynolds, who was in command, was killed."<sup>1</sup> This final report, it should be borne in mind, was written in January, 1864, six months after the battle. It is consequently a matter of surprise that General Lee should display such a want of accuracy in an important official document respecting a fact, then of such general notoriety, as that of the time of the death of Reynolds. The general advance of the Confederate troops is stated to have been subsequent to 2½ P.M., and after that hour that "Major-General Reynolds" . . . "was killed," as it would appear from the report, in Gettysburg. But passing this over, what becomes of Heth's account if Lee is right, when the latter asserts that Heth's troops were relieved by Pender's before the general advance was made?

General Lee, as well as a large number of Confederate officers of high rank, attribute in a measure their want of success at Gettysburg to the absence of cavalry. The only reference on the part of Lee to the subject is that in his final report, in which the embarrassment, considered to be due to such cause, is limited to the movements of his army "preceding the battle of Gettysburg."<sup>2</sup> General Hill goes further, saying that "the want of cavalry was again seriously felt." Colonel Taylor, of Lee's staff, remarks, "Now as to the battle itself. The first great disadvantage experienced by General Lee was the unexpected absence of his cavalry."<sup>3</sup> General Alexander, chief of artillery of Longstreet's corps, declares that their "information of the enemy's movements was incomplete on account of the absence of all of the cavalry, or nearly all, with General Stuart, who, instead of being between us and the enemy, was on a raid around him."<sup>4</sup> General Wilcox, of Hill's corps, expresses himself to the same effect, observing that a scout reported that Hooker had crossed the Potomac and was moving north. "Without his cavalry General Lee could not divine the purpose of the enemy, but he determined, with the view of guarding his communications with Virginia and to check the advance west, to concentrate his forces east of the mountains."<sup>5</sup> General Long, military secretary to General Lee, says, "When, however," Lee "had crossed the Potomac, the absence of his cavalry, caused by the fatal blunder of Stuart, which

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<sup>1</sup> Southern Historical Society Papers, vol. ii. p. 40.

<sup>2</sup> Idem, vol. ii. p. 44.

<sup>3</sup> Idem, vol. iv. p. 82.

<sup>4</sup> Idem, vol. iv. p. 99.

<sup>5</sup> Idem, vol. iv. p. 112.

separated it from the army at the most critical time, obliged him to grope his way in the dark, and precipitated him, by the want of timely notice, into a premature engagement with the enemy.”<sup>1</sup> General Heth is the most emphatic, saying, “The failure to crush the Federal army in Pennsylvania in 1863, in the opinion of almost all the officers of the Army of Northern Virginia, can be expressed in five words,—*the absence of our cavalry.*”<sup>2</sup> These extracts sufficiently indicate the prevailing impression among a very numerous class of Confederate officers, namely, that the cavalry arm of the service was actually wanting to the Confederate chief. And yet on this point the statements of Generals J. E. B. Stuart and Fitz-Hugh Lee are diametrically in opposition to those which have just been cited. Stuart, in the draft of his report on the Gettysburg campaign, refers to this subject, and replies to the unfavorable criticism of his fellow-officers in the following manner: “It was thought by many that my command could have rendered more service had it been in advance of the army the first day at Gettysburg, and the commanding general complains of a want of cavalry on that occasion; but it must be remembered that the cavalry (Jenkins’s brigade) specially selected for advance-guard to the army by the commanding general on account of its geographical location at the time was available for this purpose, and had two batteries of horse artillery serving with it. If, therefore, the peculiar functions of cavalry with the army were not satisfactorily performed in the absence of my command, it should rather be attributed to the fact that Jenkins’s brigade was not as efficient as it ought to have been, and as its numbers (three thousand eight hundred) on leaving Virginia warranted us in expecting. Even at that time, by its reduction incident to the campaign, it numbered far more than the cavalry which successfully covered Jackson’s flank movement at Chancellorsville, turned back Stoneman from the James, and drove three thousand five hundred cavalry, under Averill, across the Rappahannock. Properly handled, such a command should have done everything requisite, and left nothing to detract by the remotest implication from the brilliant exploits of their comrades achieved under circumstances of great hardship and danger.”<sup>3</sup> General Fitz-Hugh Lee, in his review of the first two days’ operations at Gettysburg, is quite as emphatic. “The much-abused cavalry,” he says, “is lifted into great prominence, and is constrained to feel complimented by the statement of many of these critics, that the failure to crush the Federal army in

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<sup>1</sup> Southern Historical Society Papers, vol. iv. p. 122.

<sup>2</sup> Idem, vol. iv. p. 155.

<sup>3</sup> Idem, vol. ii. p. 76.



Pennsylvania in 1863 can be expressed 'in five words,' viz., 'the absence of our cavalry'; but such language implies an accusation against General J. E. B. Stuart, its commander, who has been charged with a neglect of duty in not reporting the passage of the Potomac by Hooker's army (afterwards Meade's), and with disobedience of orders, which resulted in placing the Federal army between his command and the force of General Lee, thereby putting out the eyes of his own 'giant.'" . . . "From the 25th of June to July 2, General Lee deplored Stuart's absence, and almost hourly wished for him, and yet it was by his permission his daring chief of cavalry was away. General Stuart cannot, therefore, be charged with the responsibility of the failure at Gettysburg."<sup>1</sup> And elsewhere Fitz-Hugh Lee remarks, "In justice to Stuart, it may be said that he had calculated upon the brigade of Jenkins, and White's battalion of cavalry, which accompanied Generals Ewell and Early, and Jones's and Robertson's brigades, which were left to guard the passes of the Blue Ridge, and were to rejoin General Lee as soon as the enemy crossed the river, to do all that was necessary."<sup>2</sup> On the other hand, General Early, in reviewing the causes of Lee's defeat, expresses his opinion in the following manner: "I have never thought that our failure at Gettysburg was due to the absence of Stuart's cavalry, though I can well understand the perplexity and annoyance it caused General Lee before the enemy was found. He was found, however, without the aid of cavalry, and when found, though by accident, he furnished us the opportunity to strike him a fatal blow." . . . "It is difficult" . . . "to perceive of what more avail in ascertaining and reporting the movements of the Federal army Stuart's cavalry could have been if it had moved on the west of South Mountain than individual scouts employed for that purpose, while it is very certain that his movement on the other flank greatly perplexed and bewildered the Federal commanders, and compelled them to move slower. It is not improbable, however, that it would have been better for him to hurry on and not meddle with the wagon-train he captured; but then the temptation was so great to a poor Confederate."<sup>3</sup> Lieutenant-Colonel Fremantle, of the Coldstream Guards, who was present with Lee's army at Gettysburg, and who has expressed great admiration for the gallantry and determination of the Southern people in his "Three Months in the Southern States," writes, under date of June 30, as follows: "I had a long talk with many officers about the approaching

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<sup>1</sup> Southern Historical Society Papers, vol. v. p. 162.

<sup>2</sup> Idem, vol. iv. p. 75.

<sup>3</sup> Idem, vol. iv. p. 269.

battle, which evidently cannot now be delayed long, and will take place on this road" (the one towards Gettysburg) "instead of in the direction of Harrisburg, as we had supposed. Ewell, who has laid York as well as Carlisle under contribution, has been ordered to reunite. Every one, of course, speaks with confidence. I remarked that it would be a good thing for them if on this occasion they had cavalry to follow up the broken infantry in the event of their succeeding in beating them. But to my surprise they all spoke of their cavalry as not efficient for that purpose. In fact, Stuart's men, though excellent at making raids, capturing wagons and stores, and cutting off communications, seem to have no idea of charging infantry under any circumstances. Unlike the cavalry with Bragg's army, they wear swords, but seem to have little idea of using them; they hanker after their carbines and revolvers. They constantly ride with their swords between their left leg and the saddle, which has a very funny appearance; but their horses are generally good, and they ride well. The infantry and artillery of this army do not seem to respect the cavalry very much, and often jeer at them."<sup>1</sup> In his account of the operations of General Gregg's division of Federal cavalry, on the right flank of the army at Gettysburg, Colonel Brooke-Rawle notices this disinclination of Stuart's cavalry to make use of the sabre. His description of Gregg's brilliant charge on the afternoon of the 3d of July, which foiled Stuart's attempt to surprise the rear of our main line of battle, which was to have been executed simultaneously with Pickett's assault in front, is so much in point that an extract from it is here given: "As Town ordered sabres to be drawn and the column to advance, Custer dashed up with similar orders, and placed himself at its head. The two columns drew nearer and nearer, the Confederates outnumbering their opponents as three or four to one. The gait increased,—first the trot, then the gallop. Hampton's battle-flag floated in the van of the brigade. The orders of the Confederate officers could be heard by those in the woods on their left,—'Keep to your sabres, men! Keep to your sabres!' for the lessons they had learned at Brandy Station and at Aldie had been severe. There the cry had been, 'Put up your sabres! Draw your pistols and fight like gentlemen!' But the sabre was never a favorite weapon with the Confederate cavalry, and now, in spite of the lessons of the past, the warnings of the present were not heeded by all."<sup>2</sup> . . . "The successful re-

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<sup>1</sup> *Three Months in the Southern States*, by Lieutenant-Colonel Fremantle, Am. Ed., p. 250.

<sup>2</sup> *Annals of the War*, p. 481, and note to p. 483.

sult of this magnificent cavalry charge was attributed by the victors to the steadiness and efficiency with which they used the sabre, *en masse*, against greatly superior numbers of the enemy, many of whom had exchanged that weapon for the revolver."

The main features of the determined resistance offered by the First Corps having thus at some length been presented, the part taken in the battle of the 1st of July by the Eleventh Corps remains to be described. Shortly after the death of Reynolds, General Schurz, who had assumed the command of the Eleventh Corps, met the Third Division, the head of that part of his column which had moved by the Taneytown Road, near Cemetery Hill. This was probably a little after 1 P.M., although General Howard suggests that it may have been as early as 12.45 P.M.,<sup>1</sup> whilst his chief of artillery states that at 10 A.M. "the head of the Eleventh Corps had" . . . "just come in sight of Gettysburg."<sup>2</sup> The narrative of this last-mentioned officer does not, however, agree in several important particulars with the reports of other officers. For instance, both Howard and Schurz speak of Barlow's division (the First) as marching on the direct road from Emmetsburg, and the other two by cross-roads leading into the Taneytown Road, Howard adding that one battery was with the First Division and the remaining four batteries with the other two divisions; whereas the chief of artillery represents it that one battery was marching with Schurz's division (the Third) and one with Steinwehr's (the Second), and that "the remaining three were together between the two rear divisions."<sup>3</sup> It would certainly have been quite easy to arrange these five batteries so that one should have been at the head of the Third, one at the rear of the Second, and the remaining three between those two divisions, but such an arrangement would not have allowed a battery to the First Division, of which Schurz speaks. Be this as it may, however, his statement as to the time when the batteries reached the town, and which is of far more consequence, is by no means clear. After mentioning that Howard had intelligence of the death of Reynolds at 11.30 A.M., he remarks, "I reached Gettysburg in an hour after receiving General Howard's order with the batteries, and as the infantry moved through the town to the front I sent with them four batteries,—Wheeler and Heckman to the left, on the Seminary Road, and Dilger and Wilkinson to the right, with Gen. Barlow's division. The remaining battery, Captain Wei-

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<sup>1</sup> Campaign of Gettysburg, by O. O. Howard, Atlantic Monthly, July, 1876, p. 55.

<sup>2</sup> Philadelphia Weekly Times, May 31, 1879.

<sup>3</sup> Idem, May 31, 1879.

drich, I left at Cemetery Hill, with General Steinwehr." Schurz advanced the Third, now become Schimmelpfennig's division, directing it to be deployed on the right of the First Corps in two lines. Shortly afterwards Barlow's division, arriving by the Emmetsburg Road, passed through the town to the north at half after one o'clock, and, halting at the Almshouse, on the Harrisburg Road, to remove knapsacks, was then ordered to form at the double-quick on the right of the Third Division, in order to dislodge the enemy from a piece of woods to the right of the Eleventh Corps. Meanwhile, says Howard, as Schurz "was conducting his Third Division to battle I left orders for Steinwehr and Osborne" (his chief of artillery) "to halt and form upon Cemetery Ridge." Accompanying Barlow's division, Howard, upon reaching the right of the Eleventh Corps, turned and rode along the line to Doubleday's division on the left, and there seeing General Wadsworth, about two o'clock gave him orders to hold the position as long as he could and then retire. The rest of Howard's description, namely, that part of it respecting the disposition of the troops on the left of the line, differs so radically from all the other accounts and from the fact, that it seems to be a creation of the imagination. He says, "The left of Doubleday's line, resting on a small stream, called Willoughby's Run, extended to an elevation north of the Chambersburg Road, and was then refused. Then there was an interval occupied after 1 P.M. by Wheeler's and Dilger's batteries, belonging to the Eleventh Corps. From this place to Rock Creek, almost at right angles with the First Corps line, were the two divisions of the Eleventh Corps,—Barlow's and Schimmelpfennig's. Such was the position of the troops."<sup>1</sup> The account of the disposition of the troops on the right is also very inaccurate, for it will be remembered that the Ninetieth Pennsylvania, of Baxter's brigade, which was the flanking regiment at the right of the line when Robinson's division took position on Seminary Ridge, was refused and stretched along the Mummasburg Road. Schimmelpfennig's division went to the right of the Ninetieth Pennsylvania in prolongation of its line, but, not connecting with it, left a dangerous break between. The Second Brigade, of Schimmelpfennig's division, was in a field farther to the right, near to and east of the Carlisle Road. Schurz was directed to move forward and seize a wooded height in front of his left, but before he had advanced any distance, information having been brought shortly before three o'clock that part of Ewell's corps was

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<sup>1</sup> Campaign of Gettysburg, by O. O. Howard, *Atlantic Monthly*, July, 1876, p. 56.

coming in towards the right of the Federal line, between the Harrisburg and York Roads, the order was countermanded by Howard. The enemy was, thus enabled to occupy this important height in force without material opposition. Hill fixes the time that the right wing of Ewell's corps (Rodes's division) made its appearance on his left, and was formed at right angles with his line, at about half after two o'clock.<sup>1</sup> The correct time was probably sooner, for Early states that Rodes "came down on the road from Mummasburg about 2 o'clock P.M., and became engaged on Heth's left," and that he "arrived about an hour after Rodes got up,"<sup>2</sup> or at 3 P.M. Heth, on seeing Rodes thus engaged, "sought for and found General Lee, saying," as he narrates, "to the general, 'Rodes is very heavily engaged; had I not better attack?' General Lee replied, 'No; I am not prepared to bring on a general engagement to-day; Longstreet is not up.' Returning to my division, I soon discovered that the enemy were moving troops from my front and pushing them against Rodes. I reported this fact to General Lee, and again requested to be permitted to attack. Permission was given."<sup>3</sup> Whilst Rodes was thus engaged Early's division had been brought into action on his left with great success. The movements of his brigades had been very prompt and rapid, which brought his troops in the rear and flank of the force then confronting Rodes.<sup>4</sup> Early's batteries, posted on a slope between the Carlisle and Harrisburg Roads, were replied to by three of the batteries of the Eleventh Corps at the front, and by Weidrich's 3-inch rifled guns on Cemetery Hill. The shot from the latter, however, only reaching the line of the cavalry, Buford complained of the firing; but, as Howard naïvely remarks, "fortunately nobody on our side was killed by this fire." The attack of the enemy was at this time proceeding simultaneously along the whole line. Schimmelpfennig's division speedily gave way, falling back most probably before three o'clock. Wadsworth, in his report, says about half-past two;<sup>5</sup> and according to the testimony of some, retreating "before the enemy's skirmishers."<sup>6</sup> Barlow's division, on the extreme right, forming behind Rock Creek to meet a charge from Gordon's, Hays's, and Avery's brigades, of Early's division, was next struck. In a moment the open fields beyond were filled with the disordered troops of Howard's corps flying in confusion. "Where Barlow was aligned lay a line of wounded and dead men who had fallen as they stood, and in their midst

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<sup>1</sup> Southern Historical Society Papers, vol. ii. p. 223.

<sup>2</sup> *Idem*, vol. iv. p. 253.

<sup>3</sup> *Idem*, vol. iv. p. 158.

<sup>4</sup> *Idem*, vol. iv. p. 254.

<sup>5</sup> *Conduct of the War*, Part I., p. 307.

<sup>6</sup> *Idem*, Part I., p. 308.

lay Barlow himself, sorely stricken.”<sup>1</sup> Major Brady, of the Seventeenth Connecticut, Barlow’s division, speaks of “the rush to the rear of troops directly in advance” of part of his regiment.<sup>2</sup> “The Federal flank,” according to Major Daniel, of Early’s staff, “had been shriveled up as a scroll, and the whole force gave way.”<sup>3</sup> The troops from Rodes’s front moved towards the town, followed by Early’s division; Hays’s brigade, of the latter division, alone entering it.<sup>4</sup> Howard himself corroborates the general features of the foregoing account by stating that “soon the division of the Eleventh Corps nearest Doubleday was flying to the shelter of the town, widening the gap there, and the enemy in line pressed rapidly through the interval. Of course Robinson and Wadsworth had to give way.”<sup>5</sup> After the Eleventh Corps had been driven from the field but one alternative remained to the First. It had been successfully resisting the heavy shocks directed against its front by a force twofold greater than its own, but now there were superadded the blows on its flank from another force at least numerically equal to the first. The limit of human endurance had been reached, and it fell back, fighting as it went.

Howard was already on Cemetery Hill when Von Amsburg’s regiment, of his corps, the first to arrive, reached there. Leading the way with his corps flag, he placed the regiment on the right of Steinwehr’s line. General Ames, who succeeded Barlow after the latter had been severely wounded, came to him about the same time and said, “‘I have no division; it is all cut to pieces,’ to which Howard replied, ‘Do what you can, Ames, to gather the fragments and extend the line to the right.’ He did so, and succeeded better than he had feared.”<sup>6</sup> Yet it has been asserted that about fifteen hundred men of this corps were collected some miles in the rear of the field by the provost guard of the Twelfth Corps. The First Corps, compelled to yield to the severe pressure on their front and flanks, were still maintaining a position near the seminary, as they had received no orders to withdraw altogether, “although the enemy were marching on the town, and something had to be done immediately.”<sup>7</sup> The line of the Second Brigade, of the Third Division, had begun to give way not long after 3 P.M., and had fallen

<sup>1</sup> Address by Major Daniel, p. 20.

<sup>2</sup> Rebellion Record, vol. x. p. 181.

<sup>3</sup> Address by Major Daniel, p. 20.

<sup>4</sup> Southern Historical Society Papers, vol. iv. p. 254.

<sup>5</sup> Campaign of Gettysburg, by O. O. Howard, Atlantic Monthly, July, 1876, p. 58.

<sup>6</sup> Idem, p. 58.

<sup>7</sup> Conduct of the War, Part I., p. 310.

back slowly under a severe fire to a position which Meredith's brigade had taken shortly before, but the new line having been forced to give way on all sides, the whole of it shortly after withdrew to Cemetery Hill. The First Brigade, of the Third Division, forming the left of the corps line, was in like manner obliged, about 4 P.M., to retire from the field to the slight cover immediately west of the seminary, where it remained for a short time, until the batteries and most of the troops had moved through the town, when it retreated to Cemetery Hill.

In reference to the time when the first troops reached Cemetery Hill there is again a conflict of statement. Howard asserting that, according to the time which he "had gone by all day," it was half after four o'clock when General Hancock first met him there.<sup>1</sup> This Hancock contradicts, saying that he arrived upon the field about 3 P.M., or between that and 3.30, when he found the fighting about over, and when "there had been an attempt to reform some of the Eleventh Corps as they passed over Cemetery Hill, but it had not been very successful;" . . . "there may have been one thousand to twelve hundred at most organized troops of that corps in position on the hill,"<sup>2</sup> . . . "and these were a portion of Steinwehr's division, which, with the artillery of the corps, was left there by Howard when he marched up in the morning."<sup>3</sup> In the spirited account of the battle by Bates it is stated<sup>4</sup> that Steinwehr saw that "however powerful and effective his own guns might prove while unassailed," . . . "they would be unable to live long when attacked unless protected." . . . "He accordingly threw up lunettes around each gun;" . . . "not mere heaps of stubble and turf, but solid works, of such height and thickness as to defy the most powerful bolts which the enemy could throw against them, with smooth and perfectly level platforms on which the guns could be worked." Upon whose authority this statement is based does not appear, but Hancock<sup>5</sup> characterizes it as "a great error; there were no works of the kind above described on that field when" he "arrived there, and all that" he "saw in the way of 'works' were some holes (not deep) dug to sink the wheels and trains of the pieces." Three regiments of the First Brigade, of Steinwehr's division, under the command of Colonel Costar, which had been

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<sup>1</sup> Campaign of Gettysburg, by O. O. Howard, Atlantic Monthly, July, 1876, p. 58.

<sup>2</sup> Southern Historical Society Papers, vol. v. p. 169.

<sup>3</sup> Idem, vol. v. p. 171.

<sup>4</sup> Battle of Gettysburg, by Bates, p. 76.

<sup>5</sup> Southern Historical Society Papers, vol. v. p. 172.

ordered forward to the support of Schimmelpfennig's and Barlow's divisions, and were posted on the right of the Harrisburg Road, just north of the town, were borne down by Early's advancing troops, and most of them taken prisoners. The remaining regiment of that brigade, as the Federal soldiers were retiring through the town, occupied the houses on either side of the Baltimore Pike, near its junction with the Emmetsburg Road and a stone wall just below the cemetery. From their cover they checked the advance of the enemy and protected the cannoniers on the heights above.<sup>1</sup> The retreat, while trying to the troops of the First Corps, in consequence of their becoming entangled with the Eleventh in the streets of the town, was yet conducted by the former with some regard to order, the men frequently making a stand, until they finally reached the heights. Early's troops, flushed with success, "exclaimed as their officers passed along their lines, 'Let us go on!'"<sup>2</sup> Lee, too, then shared the enthusiasm of his men, although afterwards, in his first report, he alleges that "the attack was not pressed that afternoon, the enemy's force being unknown, and it being considered advisable to await the arrival of the rest of our troops." "General Lee," says Colonel Taylor, of his staff,<sup>3</sup> "witnessed the flight of the Federals through Gettysburg and up the hills beyond. He then directed me to go to General Ewell and to say to him that from the position which he occupied he could see the enemy retreating over those hills without organization and in great confusion; that it was only necessary to press 'those people' in order to secure possession of the heights, and that if possible he wished him to do this. In obedience to these instructions I proceeded immediately to General Ewell and delivered the order of General Lee, and after receiving from him some message for the commanding general in regard to the prisoners captured, returned to the latter and reported that his order had been delivered. General Ewell did not express any objection or indicate the existence of any impediment to the execution of the order conveyed to him, but left the impression on my mind that it would be executed." . . . "The troops were not moved forward, and the enemy proceeded to occupy and fortify the position which it was designed that General Ewell should seize. Major-General Edward Johnson, whose division reached the field after the engagement and formed on the left of Early, in a conversation had with me since the war about this circumstance, in which I sought an explanation of our inaction at that time, assured me that there was no

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<sup>1</sup> History of the Pennsylvania Volunteers, vol. ii. pp. 865-866.

<sup>2</sup> Address by Major Daniel, p. 20.

<sup>3</sup> Annals of the War, p. 308.



hindrance to his moving forward, but that after getting his command in line of battle, and before it became seriously engaged or had advanced any great distance, for some unexplained reason he had received orders to halt. This was after General Lee's message was delivered to General Ewell." Lee and staff had reached the field in the afternoon, near the close of the battle. Soon after Anderson's division arrived, but being too late to participate in the action was halted on the ground held by Pender when the battle began,<sup>1</sup> and at about the same time Longstreet came in person, his troops being a few miles behind.<sup>2</sup>

Thus practically terminated the first day's battle; but what were the fruits of the victory to General Lee? Defeated by overwhelming numbers, the men of the First Corps, who had borne the brunt of the fight, were again in position, and determined to contest the ground they now occupied. Buford was near by to assist. But why did the victors pause in their pursuit? A pause which was to prove fatal to their anticipations of a favorable issue to their appeal to arms. Ewell had been ordered to seize the heights, and the belief was that the order could and would have been obeyed, as, in the opinion of General Johnson, there was no hindrance to his moving forward. Indeed, there would appear to be no justification for his disobedience if Colonel Fremantle, of the Guards, is correct in his report of the "universal feeling in the Confederate army," which "was one of profound contempt for an enemy whom they had beaten so constantly and under so many disadvantages."<sup>3</sup> Naturally, the question whether the Confederates should have followed up their success on the afternoon of the first day has been the occasion of much animated discussion both among military men and civilians, South and North. As the legitimate result of these discussions, making due allowance for the considerable element of personal feeling exhibited by many of the Southern officers and civilians, it may be stated that the failure to pursue was fatal to Lee's army. On this point of controversy Longstreet is most emphatic in the expression of his views:<sup>4</sup> "The crushing defeat inflicted on the advance of the Federal army in the casual encounter of the 1st at Willoughby's Run should have been pushed to extremities, that occasion furnishing one of the few opportunities ever furnished for 'pursuit pell-mell.'" Ewell, as has already been mentioned, not only received the order to pursue, but expressed no objection to, or difficulty in the way of, its execution.

<sup>1</sup> Southern Historical Society Papers, vol. iv. p. 113.

<sup>2</sup> Idem, vol. iv. p. 66.

<sup>3</sup> Three Months in the Southern States, by Lieutenant-Colonel Fremantle, p. 256.

<sup>4</sup> Annals of the War, p. 620.

The "hunt was up," and in the language of Lee, as applied to the third day, some of "his people" seemed simply to desire to be "turned loose" at their enemy. Ewell<sup>1</sup> assigns as reasons, however, in his report, for not carrying out the order, that he could not bring artillery to bear on the hill, and that the troops with him "were jaded by twelve hours' marching and fighting." . . . "Cemetery Hill was not assailable from the town," and in consequence he determined with Johnson's division to take possession of a wooded hill which commanded Cemetery Hill, but before Johnson got up the enemy was reported to be moving on his left flank, and by the time that report could be investigated and "Johnson placed in position the night was far advanced."<sup>2</sup> The report of Ewell, and the memorandum of Colonel Taylor, need only to be compared in order that a conclusion may be drawn. The other corps commander, Hill, being "under the impression that the enemy were entirely routed,—his own two divisions exhausted by some six hours' hard fighting,—prudence led him to be content with what had been gained, and not push forward troops exhausted and necessarily disordered, probably to encounter fresh troops of the enemy."<sup>3</sup> In reviewing the operations of the first two days, General Fitz-Hugh Lee considers that the Confederates were 'within a stone's throw of peace' at Gettysburg;" and although in numbers as sixty-two thousand is to one hundred and five thousand (which latter, however, he thinks is an over-estimate) before any portion of either army had become engaged, yet the advantages were so manifestly on General Lee's side, in consequence of the more rapid concentration of his troops upon a common point, that the heart of every Southern soldier beat with the lofty confidence of certain victory."<sup>4</sup> . . . In referring to the first day, he puts the question,<sup>5</sup> "Did such failure at Gettysburg arise from Ewell and Hill not pushing their success on the 1st of July?" And he answers it thus: "I have always been one of those who regarded it a great misfortune that these two corps commanders did not continue to force the fighting upon that day. Each had two divisions of their corps engaged, thus leaving one division to each corps, viz., Johnson, of Ewell's, and Anderson, of Hill's, at their service for further work,—something over ten thousand men." . . . "Estimating those four divisions at the close of the action at an average of four thousand five hundred men a piece, we had eighteen thousand men; add the ten thousand of the

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<sup>1</sup> Southern Historical Society Papers, vol. iv. p. 261.

<sup>2</sup> Idem, vol. iv. p. 262.

<sup>3</sup> Idem, vol. ii. p. 223.

<sup>4</sup> Idem, vol. v. p. 163.

<sup>5</sup> Idem, vol. v. p. 167.

two divisions not engaged, and there will be found twenty-eight thousand men ready to move on, flushed with victory and confident of success." In March, 1877, he had expressed the opinion in writing<sup>1</sup> that "a little more marching, perhaps a little more fighting, would have given us the coveted position, and that in such an event the battle of Gettysburg would have had another name, and possibly another result,—who knows?" In April, 1878,<sup>2</sup> he asserts, after fairly presenting the evidence before him, "I am authorized in reaffirming that 'a little more marching, perhaps a little more fighting,' would have gained for us the possession of the heights on the evening of the 1st of July." General Heth, in his published account, already referred to, makes no allusion to this subject; regarding the fight on the 1st as being without order or system on their part,—at the same time considering a systematic plan of battle impossible from the fact that they had "accidentally *stumbled* into the fight."<sup>3</sup> General Rodes contents himself by remarking that his troops were "greatly exhausted by their march, and somewhat disorganized by the hot engagement and rapid pursuit," but that though they "were halted and prepared for further action," yet the attack was not ordered for two reasons: first, because Ewell, in the midst of the engagement which had then just taken place, had informed him through one of his officers that General Lee did not wish a general engagement brought on; and, second, because, "before the completion of his defeat," . . . "the enemy had begun to establish a line of battle on the heights back of the town, and seeing no Confederate troops on his right, and that Early, who was on his left, was awaiting orders, although his superiors were upon the ground, he concluded that the order not to bring on a general engagement was still in force."<sup>4</sup> How do these reasons harmonize with Colonel Taylor's statement that he delivered the order of General Lee to Ewell to press "those people," in order to secure possession of the heights? Moreover, the opinion of Colonel Allan, of Ewell's staff, is, that<sup>5</sup> "the Confederates would probably have been successful, first, had Ewell and Hill pushed Howard's broken troops over the top of Cemetery Hill on the first day." Early, however, takes issue, in a well-prepared defense, with those of his brother officers who have thus criticised the failure of the Confederate commanders to follow up their success on that day, and arrives at the conclusion that "it was not, therefore, a mere question of a little more marching, nor of a little

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<sup>1</sup> Southern Historical Society Papers, vol. iv. p. 75.

<sup>2</sup> *Idem*, vol. v. p. 175.

<sup>3</sup> *Idem*, vol. iv. p. 159.

<sup>4</sup> *Idem*, vol. ii. p. 149.

<sup>5</sup> *Idem*, vol. iv. p. 80.

more fighting, either, which was involved. If we had made an assault on Cemetery Hill and occupied it, it would have involved a bloody struggle." . . . "Before Johnson arrived all thought of moving on Cemetery Hill that afternoon had been abandoned, as it was then evident that the enemy had rallied from the dismay of his defeat."<sup>1</sup> General Hancock has expressed the opinion that "if the Confederates had continued the pursuit of General Howard on the afternoon of the 1st of July at Gettysburg, they would have driven him over and beyond Cemetery Hill."<sup>2</sup> But after he had made his dispositions for defending it, he did not think "the Confederate force then present could have carried it." It was the remnant of the First Corps, however, that at once gave stability to the new line. Wadsworth's division, with a battery of artillery, was posted on Culp's Hill, and the remainder of the corps on the right and left of the Taneytown Road connecting with the left of the Eleventh Corps. When these dispositions had about been completed, one division of the Twelfth Corps came up, and later another division of the same corps arrived. Sickles, it seems, had received word at Emmetsburg, between two and three o'clock in the afternoon,<sup>3</sup> from Howard, that the First and Eleventh Corps were engaged with a superior force; that Reynolds had fallen, and urging him to come to their relief. In consequence he made a forced march with a part of his corps, and arrived, with about a division, shortly after the troops had been posted on Cemetery Hill. But whilst it nowhere distinctly appears that Sickles had received the earlier order of Reynolds, yet Bates declares that he was "morally culpable for not going to the assistance of the forces engaged at Gettysburg on the first day," . . . "he having early in the day been ordered up by Reynolds and having no valid excuse for disregarding the summons."<sup>4</sup>

The extracts from the various reports and narratives which have been made use of are perhaps too copious; but, at all events, it is unnecessary to multiply the opinions of military men on the subject. Public sentiment, with almost unanimity, has become settled in the conviction that the Confederates surrendered their "golden opportunity" when they abandoned the immediate pursuit of the Federal forces on the afternoon of the 1st of July. The view of the Southern people may be gathered from Pollard's "History of the War":<sup>5</sup> "The result

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<sup>1</sup> Southern Historical Society Papers, vol. iv. p. 260.

<sup>2</sup> Idem, vol. v. p. 168.

<sup>3</sup> Conduct of the War, Part I., p. 296.

<sup>4</sup> Battle of Gettysburg, by Bates, p. 186.

<sup>5</sup> Southern History of the War, Third Year, by Pollard, p. 26.

of the day's fight may be summed up thus: we had attacked a considerable force, had driven it over three miles, captured five thousand prisoners, and killed and wounded many thousands. Our own loss was not heavy, though a few brigades suffered severely. If the attack had been pressed in the afternoon of that day there is little doubt that our forces could have got the heights and captured this entire detachment of Meade's army." Colonel Bachelder, whose "long study of the field" of Gettysburg has given him, as has justly been remarked by General Hancock,<sup>1</sup> "a fund of accurate information in great detail, which" . . . "is not possessed by any one else," in a letter to General Fitz-Hugh Lee presents the prevailing Union conviction in the following words:<sup>2</sup> "There is no question but what a combined attack on Cemetery Hill, made within an hour, would have been successful." . . . "Unquestionably the *great mistake of the battle* was the failure to follow the Union forces through the town and attack them before they could reform on Cemetery Hill. Lane's and Thomas's brigades, of Pender's division, and Smith's, of Early's division, were at hand for such a purpose and had fired scarcely a shot. Dole's, Hoke's, and Hays's brigades were in good fighting condition, and several others would have done good service. The artillery was up and in an admirable position to have covered an assault, which could have been pushed, under cover of the houses, to within a few rods of the Union position." Finally Swinton says,<sup>3</sup> "Never was pause at the door of victory more fatal to the hopes of a commander. Had the enemy followed up his advantage by seizing the crest of Cemetery Hill or Culp's Hill there would have been no Gettysburg, and indeed it is difficult to forecast what in this case they might not have done, for the Union corps were much scattered and no place of concentration had been secured."

In view of all the evidence which has been presented, is not the conclusion fairly warranted that to the stubborn resistance of the First Corps of the Army of the Potomac on the first day of July, 1863, the ultimate defeat of Lee's invading army is, in a very large measure, to be attributed? A defeat which carried with it the utter destruction of the high hopes formed at the moment Lee commenced the execution of his plan. So terminates the story of the first day's conflict,—a struggle marked with more than ordinary bravery, coolness, and endurance on the part of a large number of the troops engaged, and whose valor rendered possible the splendid victory which finally crowned the Union arms. An achievement, the moral effect of which was instantaneous;

<sup>1</sup> Southern Historical Society Papers, vol. v. p. 168.

<sup>2</sup> *Idem*, vol. v. p. 172.

<sup>3</sup> The Twelve Decisive Battles of the War, by Swinton, p. 332.

for men at once realized that at length a decisive victory had been won, and that thenceforth the days of the Confederacy were numbered.

Impartial critics of the operations of the succeeding days consider that several grave mistakes were committed by the Confederates both as to a portion of their plan and to much of its execution. These errors have been the subject of acrimonious discussion on the part of some of the officers of high rank in the late Confederate service. The mistakes may be summed up as follows: want of co-operation or harmony of action on the 2d of July, it being asserted by Early and others that Longstreet was to commence the attack on the right at an early hour in the morning, and that he failed to make it until late in the afternoon. That on the 3d the attack was to have been renewed at an early hour by Pickett and the other two divisions of Longstreet's corps, while a simultaneous assault was to have been made from the left by Ewell. That Longstreet again delayed until the afternoon, although the advance on the left had been begun at the proper time. Again, that the Federal position should have been turned by the South on the third day by extending the Confederate right so as to endanger Meade's communications with Washington. Again, that the tactical offensive course of Lee on the 2d of July was at variance with the plan of campaign settled upon before leaving Fredericksburg.<sup>1</sup> And again, that the assault of Pickett on the third day should not have been attempted, "the hopelessness" of which had been foreseen by Longstreet.<sup>2</sup> The repulse of this "hopeless" assault is thus graphically described by Longstreet:<sup>3</sup> Pickett "swept past our artillery in splendid style, and the men marched steadily and compactly down the slope. As they started up the ridge over one hundred cannon from the breastworks of the Federals hurled a rain of canister, grape, and shell down upon them; still they pressed on until half-way up the slope, when the crest of the hill was lit with a solid sheet of flame as the masses of infantry rose and fired. When the smoke cleared away, Pickett's division was gone. Nearly two-thirds of his men lay dead on the field, and the survivors were sullenly retreating down the hill. Mortal man could not have stood that fire. In half an hour the contested field was cleared and the battle of Gettysburg was over." The grand part which the Union artillery took "in this death-struggle with the Confederacy" is here recognized. Hunt, its chief, and Tyler, his able assistant, opened upon Pickett's magnificent assaulting column with their guns from Cemetery Hill to the Round Tops, "tearing vast gaps in the advancing

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<sup>1</sup> *Annals of the War*, p. 421.

<sup>2</sup> *Idem*, p. 429.

<sup>3</sup> *Idem*, p. 431.

ranks and almost annihilating that proud array of eighteen thousand of the best Southern infantry.”<sup>1</sup> Whilst Pickett’s men were falling back within the Confederate lines Lee rode towards them, and upon meeting General Wilcox, who was almost in tears at the condition of his brigade, said, “Never mind, general, *all this has been MY fault*,—it is *I* that have lost this fight, and you must help me out of it the best way you can.”<sup>2</sup>

Thus the great battle was ended. Brilliant success had rewarded the valor of the men of the Army of the Potomac, directed by the heroism and skill of its chief. Then when the loud cheers of the victorious troops proclaimed the work accomplished, the good and gallant Meade, reverently uncovering his head, gave utterance in the solemn words “Thank God!” to the profound gratitude which filled his heart.

#### THE PRESIDENT :

Although our usual hour for adjournment has arrived, I feel that you would hardly forgive me—and I could hardly forgive myself—if seeing, as I do, a gentleman present to whose energy, and to whose forecast equally, we were so greatly indebted during the war, in the high, responsible, and arduous office of governor of this great Commonwealth which he then held, I should not ask him to say a few words to us. [Addressing Governor Curtin.] You have not come here this evening, I am aware, Governor Curtin, expecting to speak, but certainly you will not deny us the pleasure of listening for a few moments to you.

EX-GOVERNOR ANDREW G. CURTIN then rose amidst great applause, and said :

#### REMARKS OF EX-GOVERNOR CURTIN.

MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY :—The call of the President upon me to speak takes me by surprise, and I have scarcely the temerity to say anything that might add interest to this occasion. The paper prepared and read by Captain Rosengarten was so accurate in his history of the life and services of General Reynolds, and so truly eloquent in the tribute he pays to his memory, that until the admirable papers of General Hofmann and Colonel Biddle were read, the subject seemed exhausted ; but having known General Reynolds well, in obedience to the call the President of the Society

<sup>1</sup> Memoir of General Robert O. Tyler, p. 15.

<sup>2</sup> Three Months in the Southern States, by Lieut.-Col. Fremantle, p. 269. See also Southern Historical Society Papers, vol. iv. p. 109.

has made upon me, anything I may say, in your kindness I am quite sure you will not consider inappropriate. In the wonderful struggle to maintain the supremacy of the government of the republic against the assaults of the most causeless and insane rebellion of history, there were few men indeed in civil or military life, in council or in the field, who gave to the country more important or useful service than the man whose memory this occasion is intended to commemorate. General Reynolds seemed to be designed by nature for a soldier. Modest in his deportment, submissive in his obedience to orders, rigid in his exaction of obedience from those he commanded, always found the perfect master of his commands, courteous and amiable in his intercourse, sterling in his integrity, and moved by the most exalted patriotism and love of country, the great victory in which he was one of the chief actors was hardly a compensation to the government for his untimely death.

It is eminently proper that by such ceremonies as these we should revive the memories of the illustrious dead, and that there should perpetually well up from the hearts of the American people gratitude to the soldiers who still live, and who gave to their suffering country the highest measure of heroic service. Whilst it is eminently proper to remember the dead and to honor the living, we must not forget that our form of government was intended and designed for advancement, for increase in material power, for individual happiness and prosperity in peace. We open wide the doors of our liberty, and on our dead level of social equality invite all people of other nations to its full enjoyment who come in peaceful approach. We set apart a day of each coming year to pay fitting tribute to the memory of the dead soldiers of the republic. The living soldier, when the earth smiles in flowers to the coming warmth of summer, gathers and strews them on the graves of his dead comrades. It is a union of the living and the dead; it is making one family of all humanity; and if the blessings of his comrades were flowers, the grave of the great soldier whose memory we now commemorate would be clothed in perpetual bloom. And not many years will pass before the last soldier will pay the tribute to his comrades, and when he, too, has paid the debt of nature, who then will take his place?

In this hall where our history and traditions are so carefully collected and garnered, and in such a presence as that in which I stand and have the honor to be heard, it is proper, eminently proper, that it should be remembered that whilst we pay due honors to the soldier, we should not be forgetful that we only engage in war from necessity,



and that of all the people of all the States of this great country, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania finds her most exalted glory in peaceful pursuits. Not far from where we are now assembled the great man who established the colony of Pennsylvania, and who proclaimed its fundamental laws for government, met in council the savages who then owned and inhabited it. The scene marked an era in our history,—it has been perpetuated by the historian, by the poet, and the artist. William Penn standing in the forest unarmed, surrounded by thousands of savage tribes and in the presence of their sachems, declaring that he came unarmed, and only protected by the great God who ruled the universe, and asked for lands for his people by treaty and purchase, was an event that should not be forgotten. He made no conquests, he used no force, but step by step the savages fell back before the approaches of the civilization which he and his followers brought with them to this distant, and then almost unknown land. He founded a republican colony, and proclaimed to his people equality and the virtue of obedience to law. No guard of soldiers surrounded his government, and for seventy-five years the constable's staff was the only symbol of power known in the colony of Penn, founded in 1682 in deeds of peace.

I was much pained to read in a lecture delivered by a distinguished soldier, a few weeks since, a tribute to officers who, he said, selected the place and opened the great battle of Gettysburg, and noticed with great satisfaction that the names of these officers do *not* occur in the papers read by Colonel Biddle or General Hofmann, or Captain Rosengarten, who were all there, and bore an active part in the battle. The battle of the 1st of July belonged to General Reynolds; it was opened by a Pennsylvania regiment; it was the advance of the army then commanded by General Meade, a Pennsylvanian, who fills an honored grave, and who will ever be remembered as one of the great soldiers of the republic; and we must not forget, as Pennsylvanians, that in the great battle of the 3d of July we had eighty regiments, and that Hancock, who still lives, commanded the left centre, and inspired by his courage, and sustained himself by the confidence of the men he commanded, repelled in successive attempts the most persistent and violent attacks known in any battle of modern times; not strange, indeed, that that great battle should be the constant subject of discussion and comment, for there the power of the Rebellion culminated and was broken. It was there the first national cemetery was founded, and there a monument is erected, the most beautiful work of art in America; and there stands the bronze statue of General Reynolds, raised by the contributions of the rank and file of his command. There are the granite

headstones marking the graves of the dead, and the vicissitudes and horrors of war can be read, recorded on that historic field in the twelve hundred graves of the unknown dead. It was at the dedication of the cemetery there that Lincoln, the martyred President, delivered the wonderful speech which, separating him from all his great life, would of itself have made his name immortal. And it was at Gettysburg that the blood of the peoples of eighteen loyal States sunk into the ground, making all a kindred and brotherhood, and sealing in the red covenant an offering to heaven that for the men who died there, and who survived, this great government and its broad liberty and equality will survive in peace or in war, and give to future generations its benefactions and blessings.

**The PRESIDENT:**

We had expected to have with us this evening one of the most distinguished of the heroes of Gettysburg, Major-General Winfield S. Hancock, another soldier whom Pennsylvania is proud to call her son, who unavoidably has been called away on duty. He has, however, written us a letter, which I will ask the Secretary to read.

**LETTER OF GENERAL HANCOCK.**

GOVERNOR'S ISLAND, NEW YORK HARBOR,

March 4, 1880.

MY DEAR SIR,—In January last I accepted the invitation of the Council of the "Historical Society of Pennsylvania" to be present on the 8th instant, at the presentation of a portrait of Major-General John F. Reynolds, deceased, to that Society, and at the same time stated that if enabled to attend I should be happy to "second the motion" on that occasion. Within the last few days, however, it has become apparent that I cannot be present, and I am obliged to leave for the West tomorrow, to be absent for the next ten or twenty days. I should have been pleased to have seen the painting in question, for I knew General Reynolds intimately through a long course of years (since 1840), and saw him last only a day or two before his heroic death on the battle-field of Gettysburg; I therefore well knew his lineaments and the expression of his features.

In 1868, while on duty in the East (in New York), having a general determination in my own mind as to the qualities and characteristics of the men, and believing that Reynolds, Sedgwick, Thomas, Meade, and some others of like type, as well represented the model soldier resulting

from the instruction of our Military Academy at West Point, as any that were known to me, I had procured a portrait of Sedgwick and sent it to that Academy, where it now is. I ordered one of Reynolds too, and it was not sent to West Point, according to the original intention, only because I was transferred to the West before that matter was disposed of. Subsequently, I gave to the artist my assent that he might dispose of the portrait to the friends of the family, who had expressed a desire to possess it, but upon the condition that a copy might be taken in the future, to be placed at the Military Academy, and it was thus transferred by the artist to Mr. Landis, a brother-in-law of General Reynolds, residing in Philadelphia.

I found some difficulty in procuring the data for the artist who painted this portrait of General Reynolds, he never having had an important picture of himself taken, and I found nothing available but some photographs (*cartes-de-visite*) and inferior sketches, taken at different periods of his life. The portrait was probably completed, however, under the advice and criticisms of relations and friends who knew him well, and who visited Washington City during its execution.

I was also instrumental, in 1868-69, in having a portrait of General George H. Thomas painted in Washington City, by Mr. Balling, the artist of all these paintings. I was at that time on duty with the General as a member of the "Dyer Court of Inquiry," and sat beside him on that service for a period of five months.

That I did not endeavor to have a portrait of General Meade painted for a like object was because his friends in Philadelphia, through their sympathy and attachment to him, had completely covered that ground; many successful pictures of him were taken then, some of which I have seen. That no application for a copy of the portrait of General Reynolds, to which I have referred as being in the possession of Mr. Landis, of Philadelphia, was subsequently made (to be placed at West Point) was owing to the fact that the members of the First Army Corps (Reynolds'), having erected a monument to him, finding a balance of funds remaining on hand sufficient for the purpose, concluded, a few years since, to have a portrait of him painted, which was accordingly done from the best sources of information, as to his appearance, etc., then attainable. After its completion, I was invited by General Wainwright (late chief of artillery, First Army Corps, and chairman of the committee who had charge of the matter) to give my opinion as to its merits. I considered it a good portrait. It was sent to the Military Academy, and thus there seemed to be no occasion for a copy of the portrait in Mr. Landis's hands. I do not recall now the name of the

artist who painted the picture for the committee of the First Corps, although I knew it at the time, and am personally acquainted with him.

I may take this occasion to state that, in my opinion, there was no officer in the Army of the Potomac who developed a character for usefulness and ability, in the highest grades of command, superior to that of General Reynolds, and had he lived to the close of the war he would most probably have attained the highest honors in that army. It is quite well understood, and I believe it is a matter of history, that he could have had command of the Army of the Potomac before the battle of Gettysburg, and that it was conferred upon General Meade after General Reynolds' recommendation or suggestion. They were close friends,—a friendship based not upon personal considerations alone, but upon mutual esteem, and appreciation of character and abilities as well.

General Reynolds was senior to General Meade in rank, and therefore it can be well understood that, with his well-known merit, he was first considered when command was in question.

I am, dear sir,

Very truly and respectfully yours,

WINFIELD S. HANCOCK.

THE HON. JOHN WILLIAM WALLACE,

*President Historical Society of Pennsylvania.*

REAR-ADMIRAL GEORGE F. EMMONS, U.S.N., then rose and said :

#### REMARKS OF ADMIRAL EMMONS.

MR. PRESIDENT:—Permit me to say that from an intimate acquaintance with Rear-Admiral Reynolds—whose name has been mentioned here this evening with great honor—and a friendship lasting over forty years, I have had an opportunity of knowing him well, and have, I hope, appreciated his many noble qualities. The Admiral having spent much of his life out of the country, it is perhaps natural that his name should be less prominent with you than that of his brother, the General, who died on the battle-field defending the soil of his native State and country ; but knowing him as he was, and having listened to all that has been so well and I believe truthfully said here of his gallant brother, I conclude that they were equally possessed of those noble traits that constitute the noble man. Admiral Reynolds stood high among his peers, and was an able and accomplished officer. Loyalty with him was not merely a sentiment, but a principle, a fact. He was, indeed, an honorable member of the Loyal Legion of the United States,

and I am glad to see present on this occasion so many companions of that order. To some of you Admiral Reynolds was a stranger. It is therefore proper I should have said this much. And now, Mr. President, permit me, in behalf of the navy and of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, to thank you and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania for the significance you have given to this occasion. Life is too short for us to forget such men and such virtues as they possessed, and Pennsylvania may well be proud of such sons.

The meeting, after the transaction of some formal business, then adjourned.

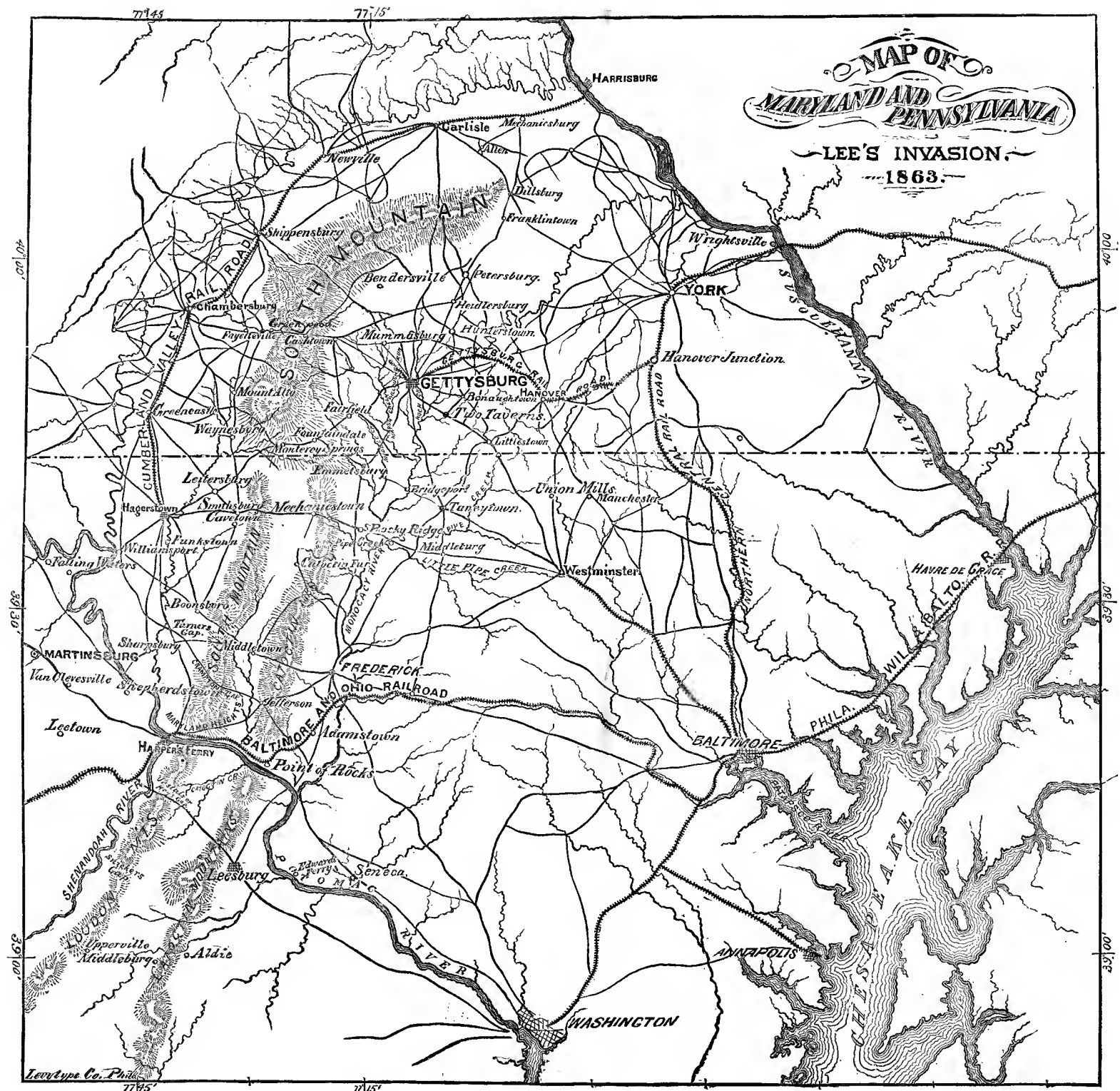




MAP OF  
MARYLAND AND  
PENNSYLVANIA

LEE'S INVASION.

1863.







THE BATTLE FIELD  
GETTYSBURG.

1st Day  
JULY 1st 1863

